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# KNUCKLES

APPROVED  
BY THE  
COMICS  
CODE  
AUTHORITY

## THE ECHIDNA



**PENDERS • SPAZIANTE • GALAN  
GROSSMAN • WILLIAMS • PEPOY**

SPAZ  
PENDERS

# **KNUCKLES™** BOOK NINETEEN

## **The Forbidden Zone**

**Part One of Three**

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Born to the most noble of Echidna houses,  
the latest to continue the family heritage  
and responsibility as  
**GUARDIAN OF THE FLOATING ISLAND,**  
defender of all the forces of evil from the world  
beyond as well as those who would  
threaten within, he is none other than...  
**KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA!**

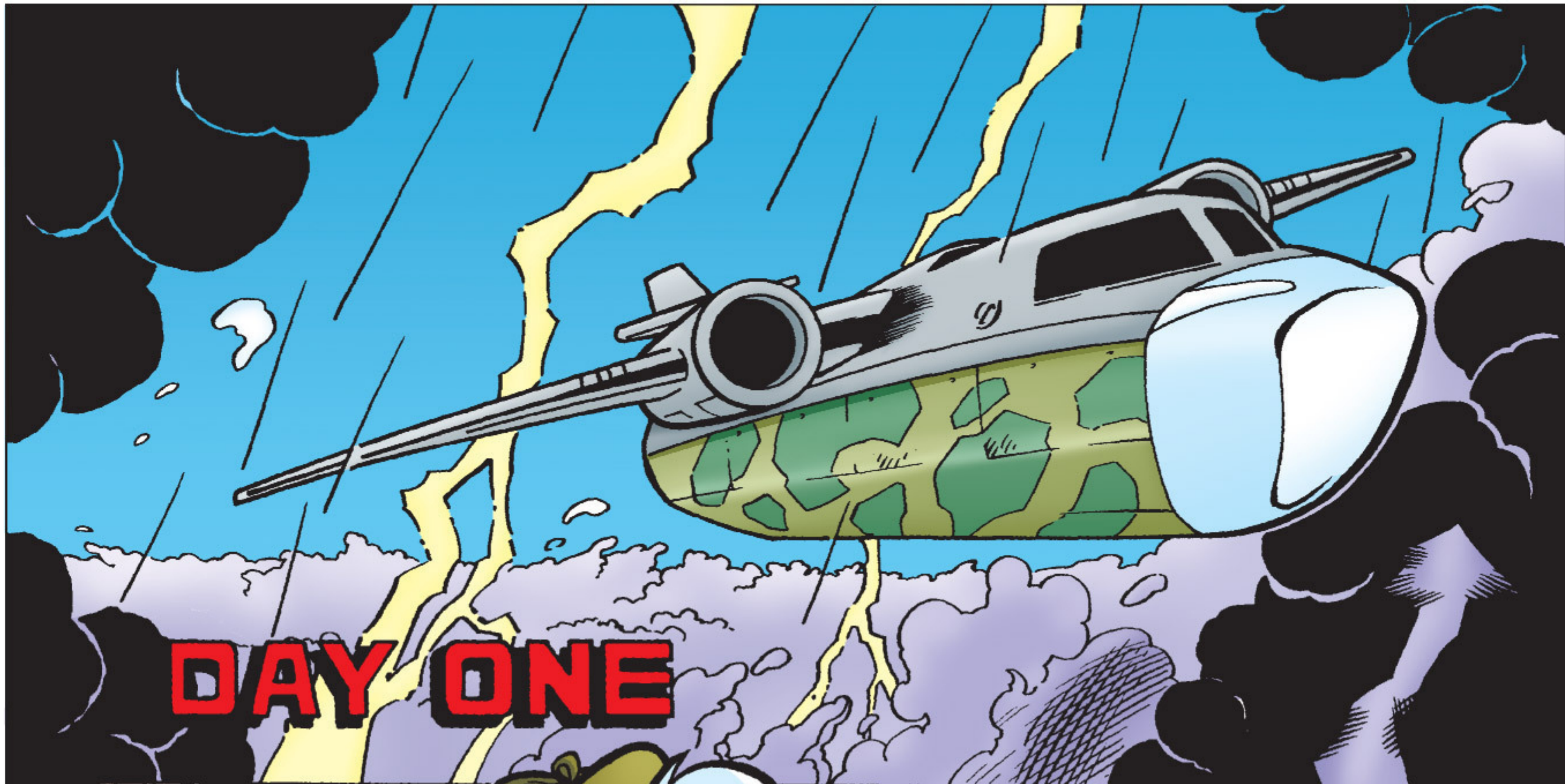


SPAZ  
PENDERS

**M**any years ago, during the **Great War**, when **Princess Sally** was but an infant, **King Acorn** sent his wife **Queen Alicia** to The Floating Island in order to insure the safety of his Queen and **the future of Mobotropolis**. It resulted in failure.

Recently, the newly-returned, now-healthy King assigned a squad of his elite commandos to return to The Floating Island and ascertain the true fate of his loved ones.

It is here our tale begins...



**DAY ONE**



I THOUGHT YOU SAID IT WAS GOING TO BE CLEAR SKIES, MATE!

ZIS IS NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT, ST. JOHN!

I'VE FLOWN IN WORSE!

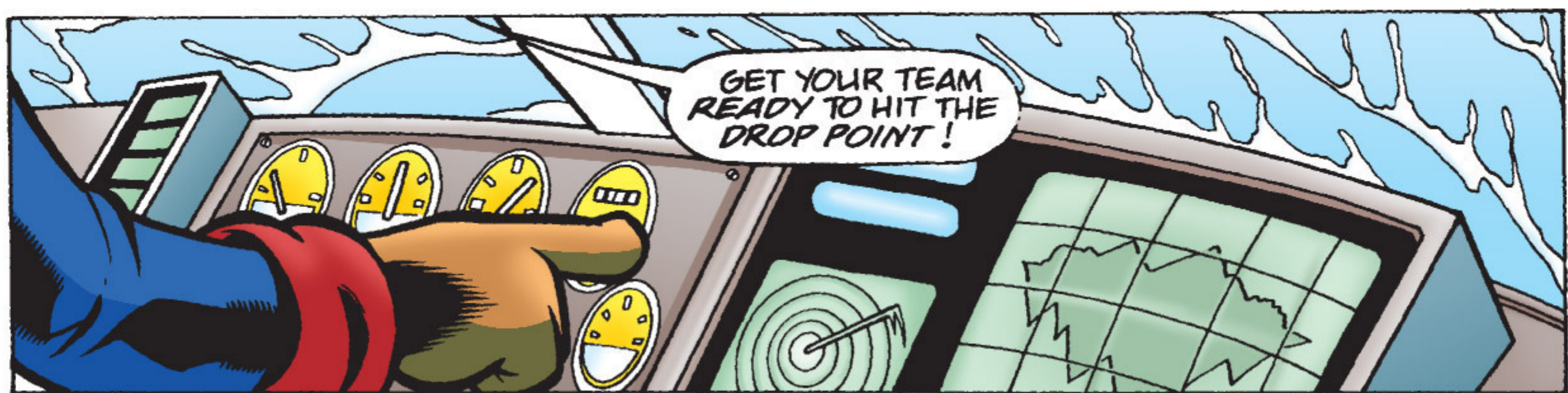


JUST SO LONG AS YOU GET US TO THE LANDING POINT!

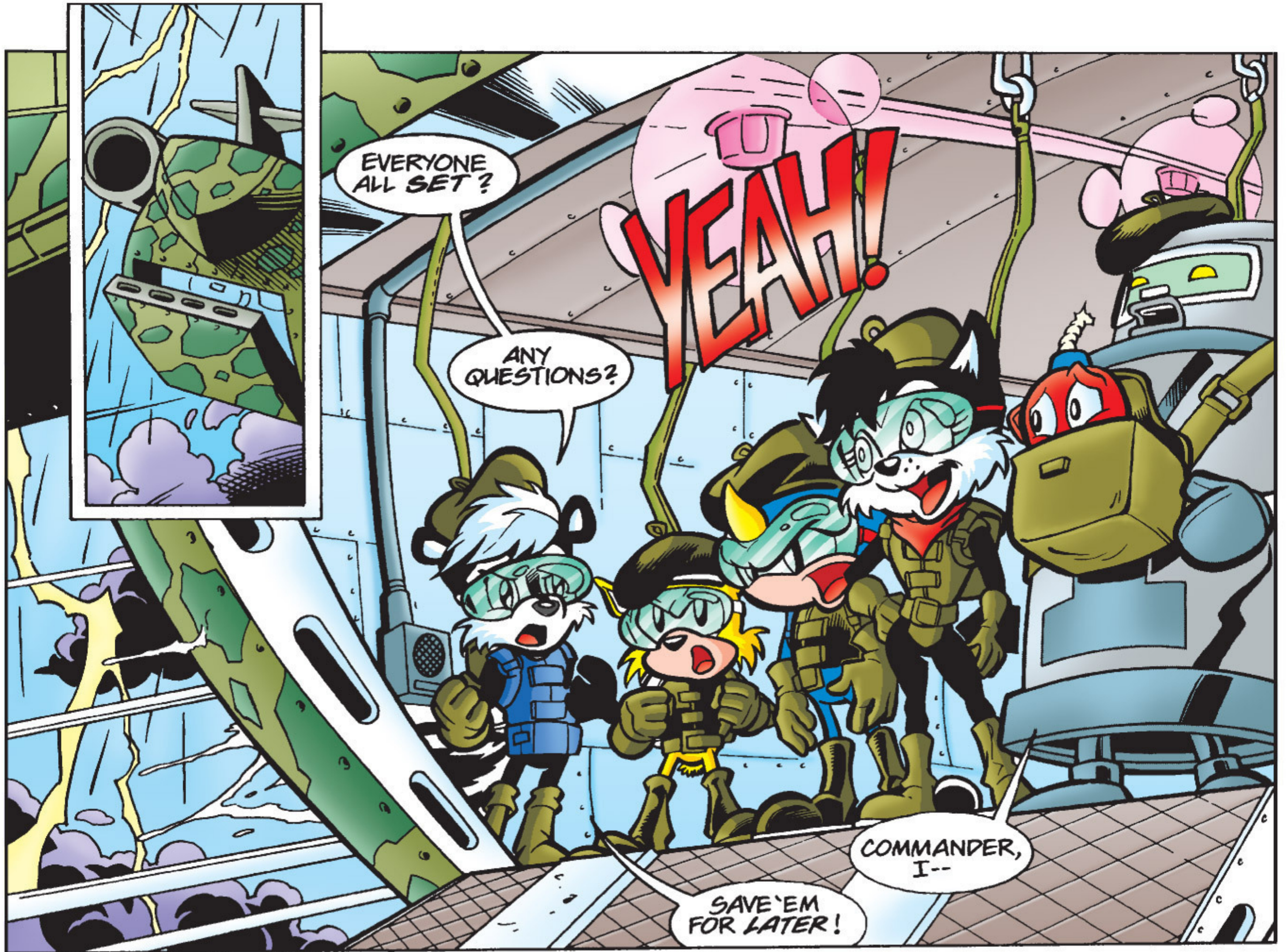
I'D HATE TO SEE THE GAME CALLED ON ACCOUNT OF WEATHER!



IF IT IS, IT WON'T BE BECAUSE OF MOI!



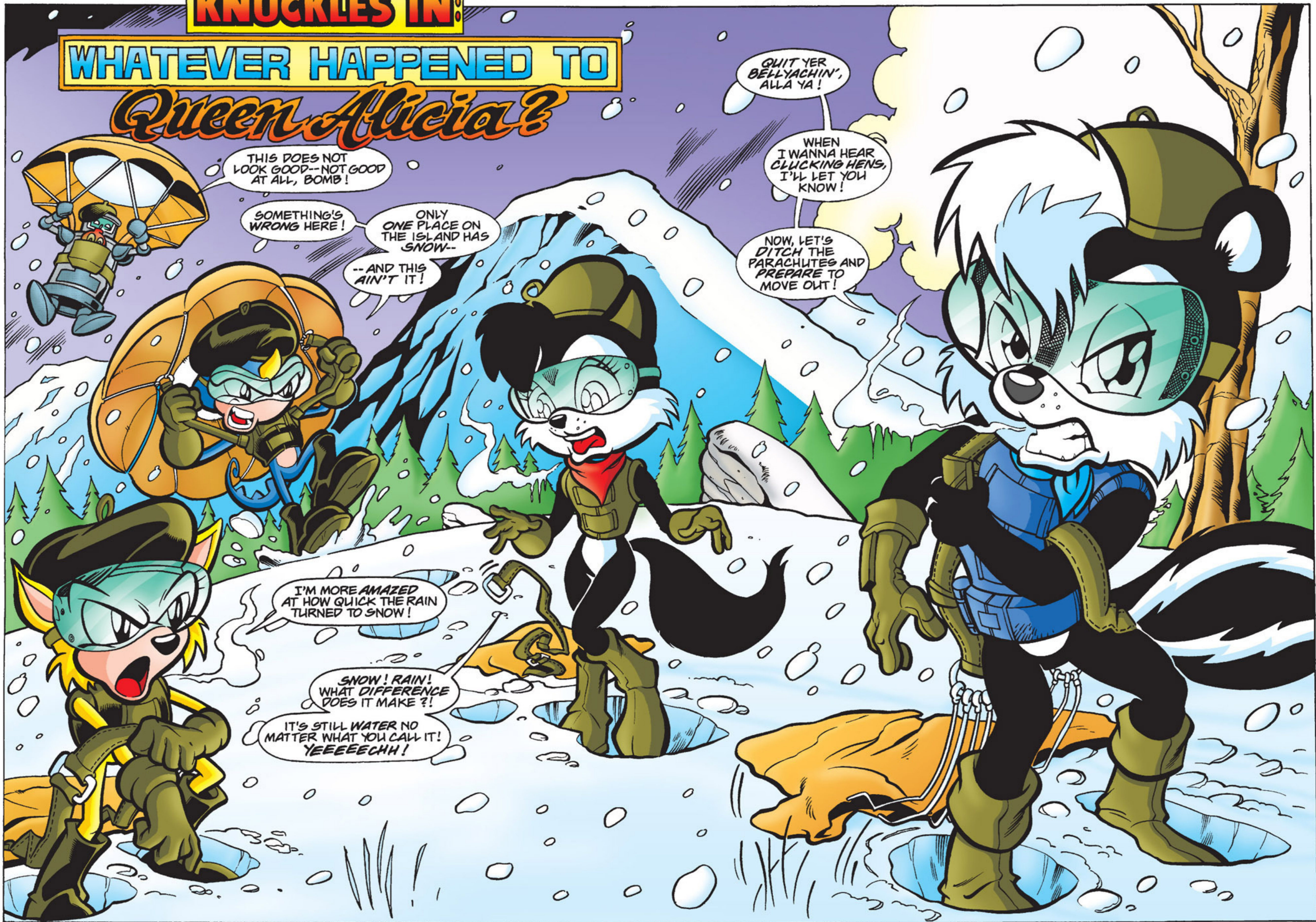
GET YOUR TEAM READY TO HIT THE DROP POINT!



# KNUCKLES IN:

## WHATEVER HAPPENED TO

# Queen Alicia?



THIS DOES NOT LOOK GOOD--NOT GOOD AT ALL, BOMB!

SOMETHING'S WRONG HERE!

ONLY ONE PLACE ON THE ISLAND HAS SNOW--

--AND THIS AIN'T IT!

QUIT YER BELL-YACHIN', ALLA YA!

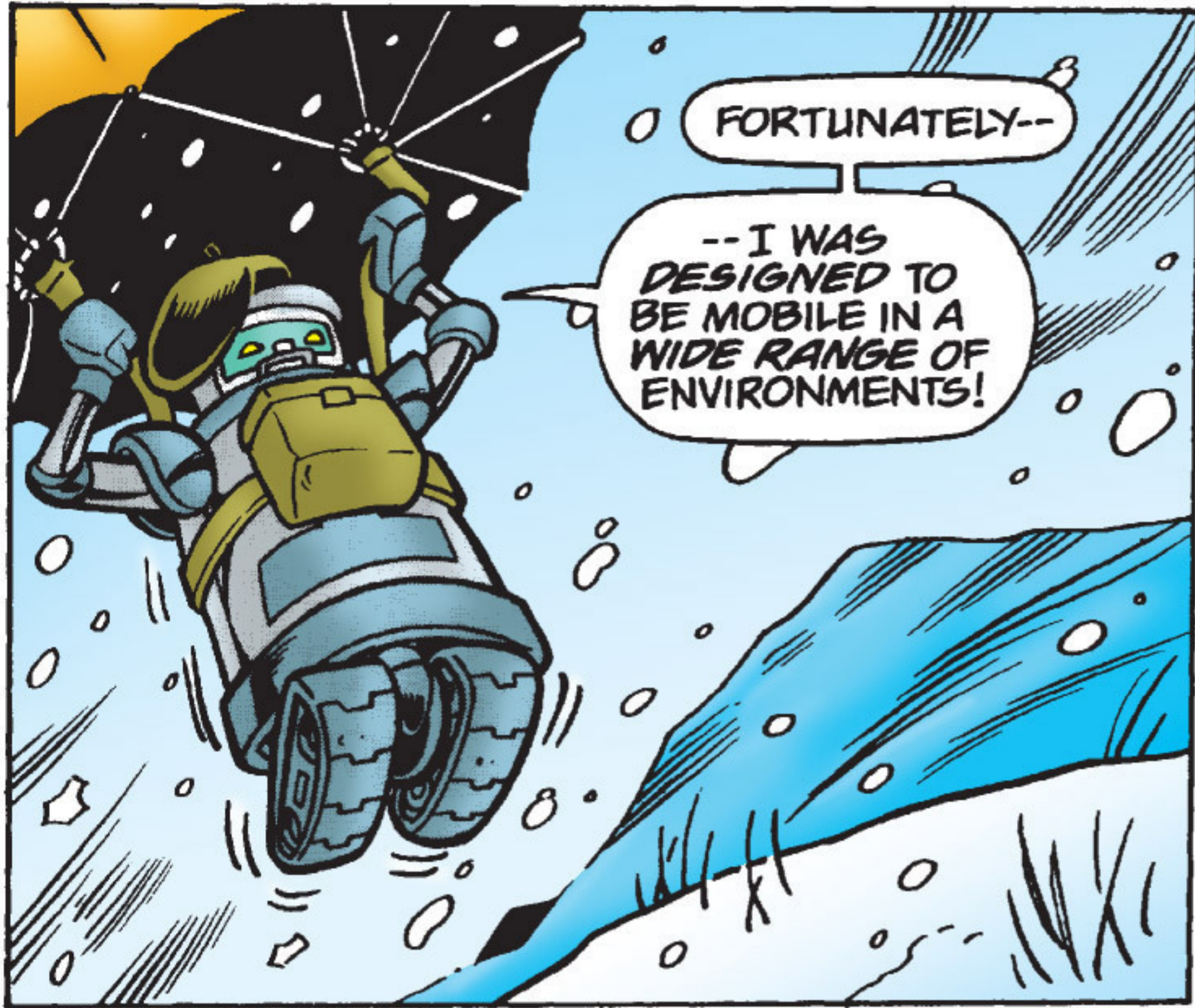
WHEN I WANNA HEAR CLUCKING HENS, I'LL LET YOU KNOW!

NOW, LET'S DITCH THE PARACHUTES AND PREPARE TO MOVE OUT!

I'M MORE AMAZED AT HOW QUICK THE RAIN TURNED TO SNOW!

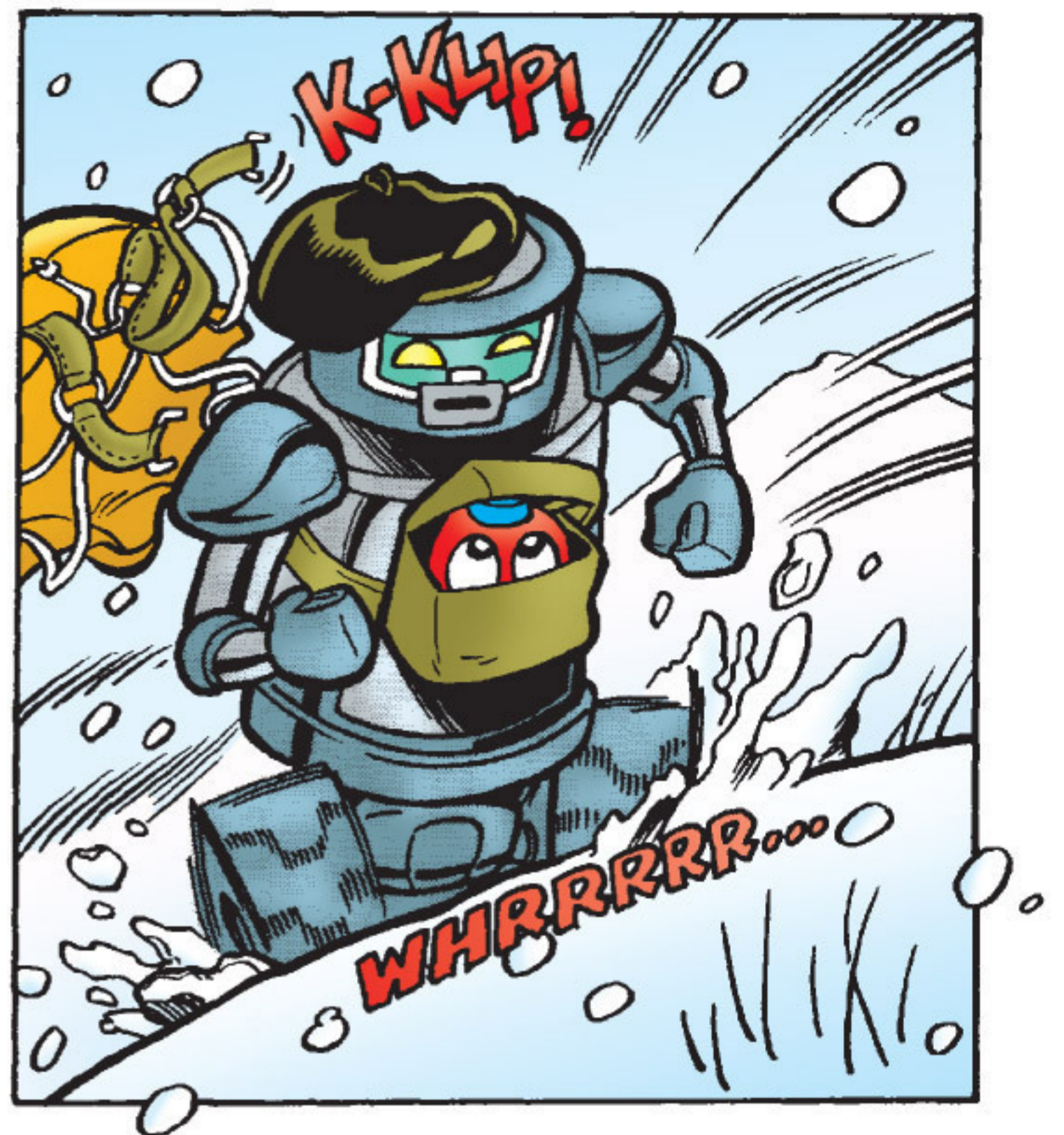
SNOW! RAIN! WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE?!

IT'S STILL WATER NO MATTER WHAT YOU CALL IT! YEEEECHH!



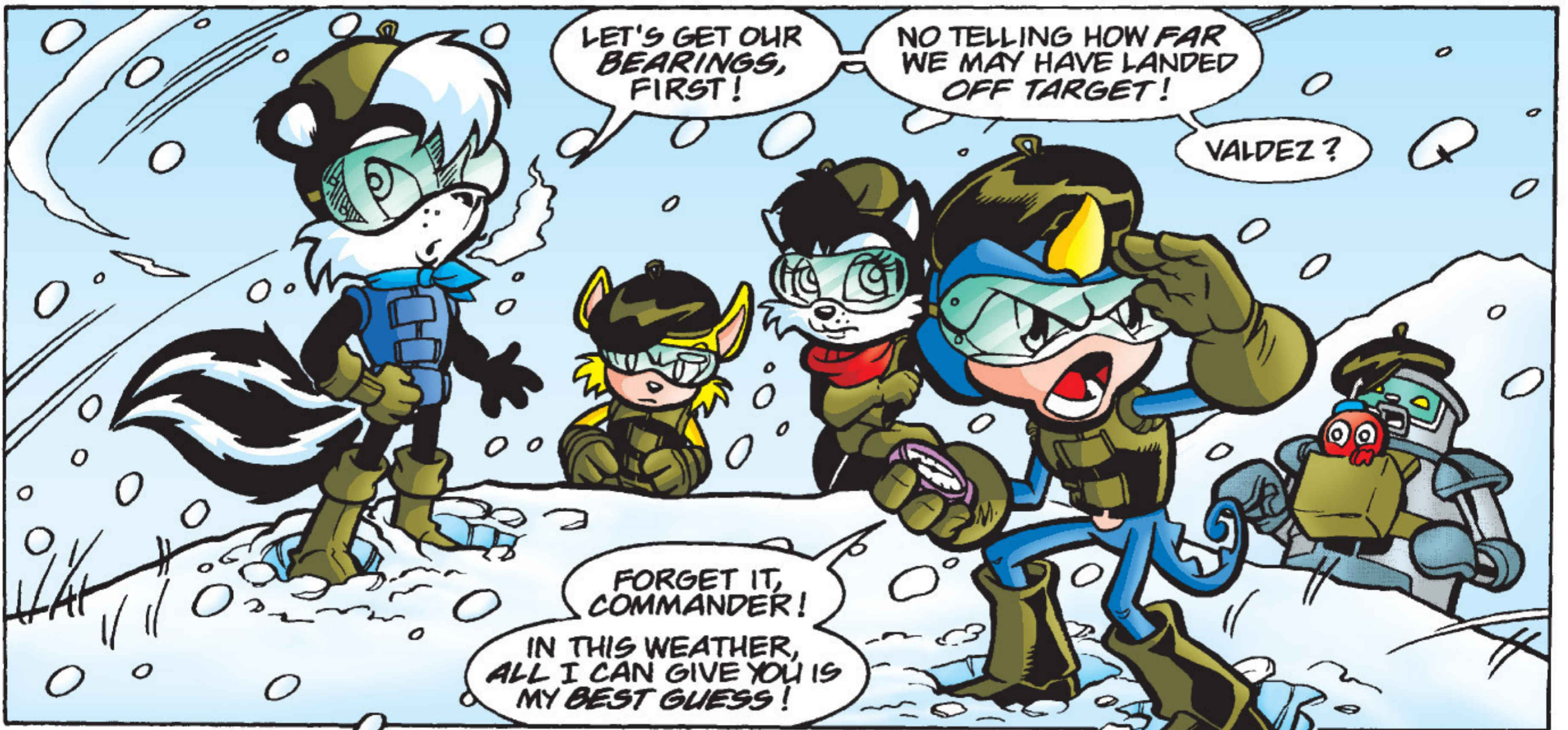
FORTUNATELY--

--I WAS DESIGNED TO BE MOBILE IN A WIDE RANGE OF ENVIRONMENTS!



K-KLIP!

WHRRRRR...



LET'S GET OUR BEARINGS, FIRST!

NO TELLING HOW FAR WE MAY HAVE LANDED OFF TARGET!

VALDEZ?

FORGET IT, COMMANDER!

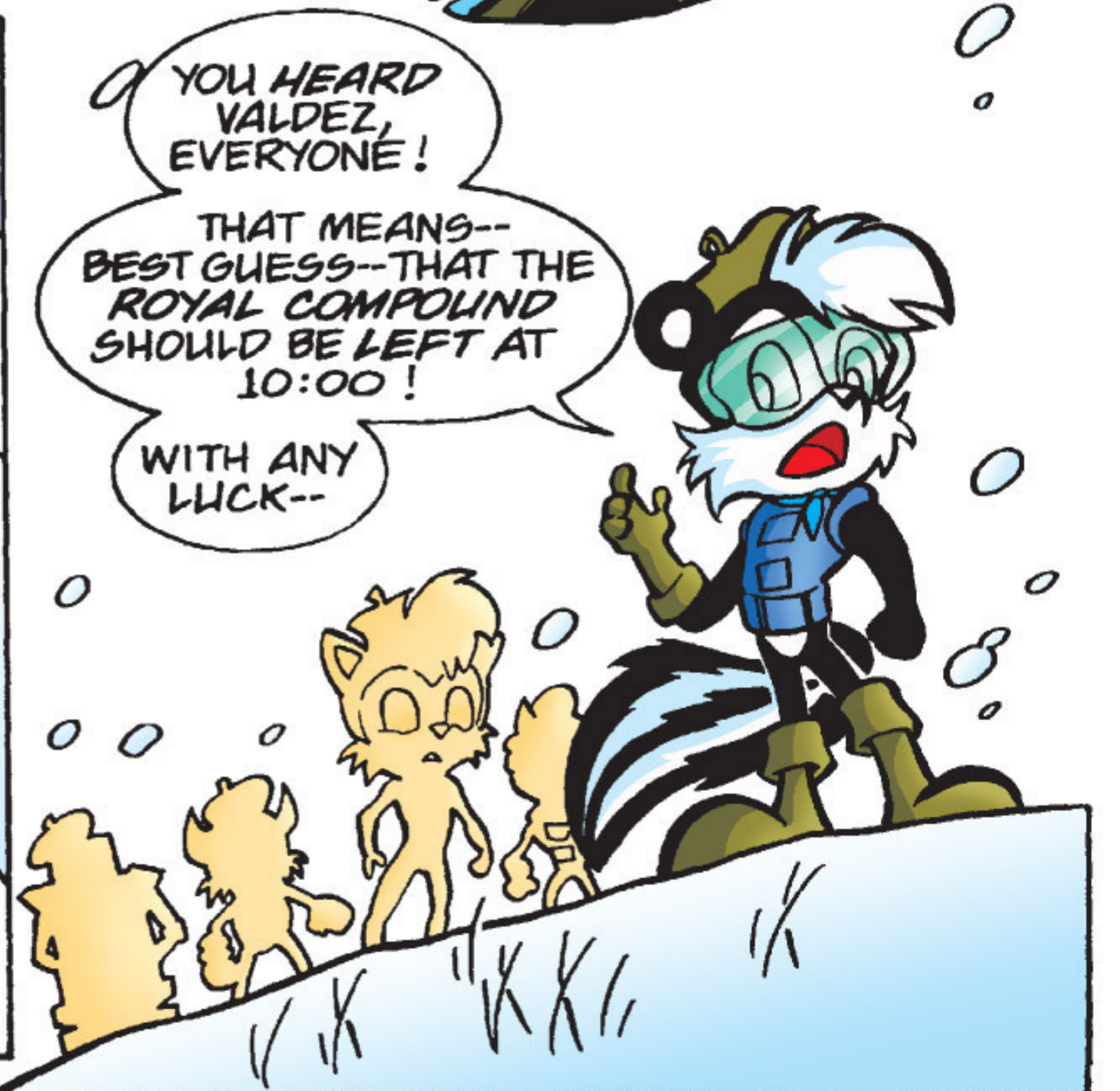
IN THIS WEATHER, ALL I CAN GIVE YOU IS MY BEST GUESS!



AND WHAT WOULD THAT BE?

I'M NOT SURE, BUT I'D SWEAR THOSE ARE SOME OF THE SANDOPOLIS RUINS!

IF THAT'S SO, NORTH IS TO OUR RIGHT!

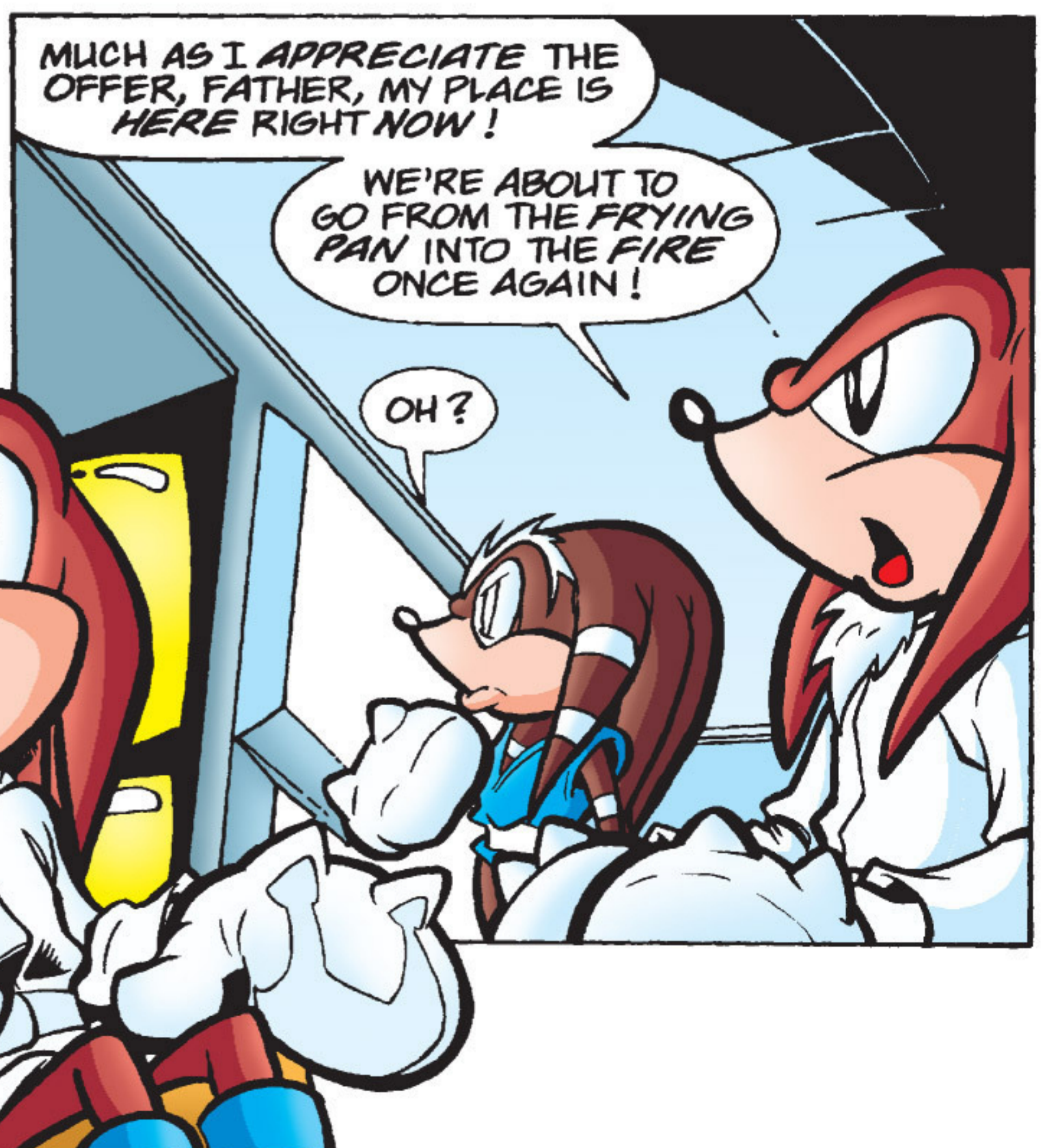
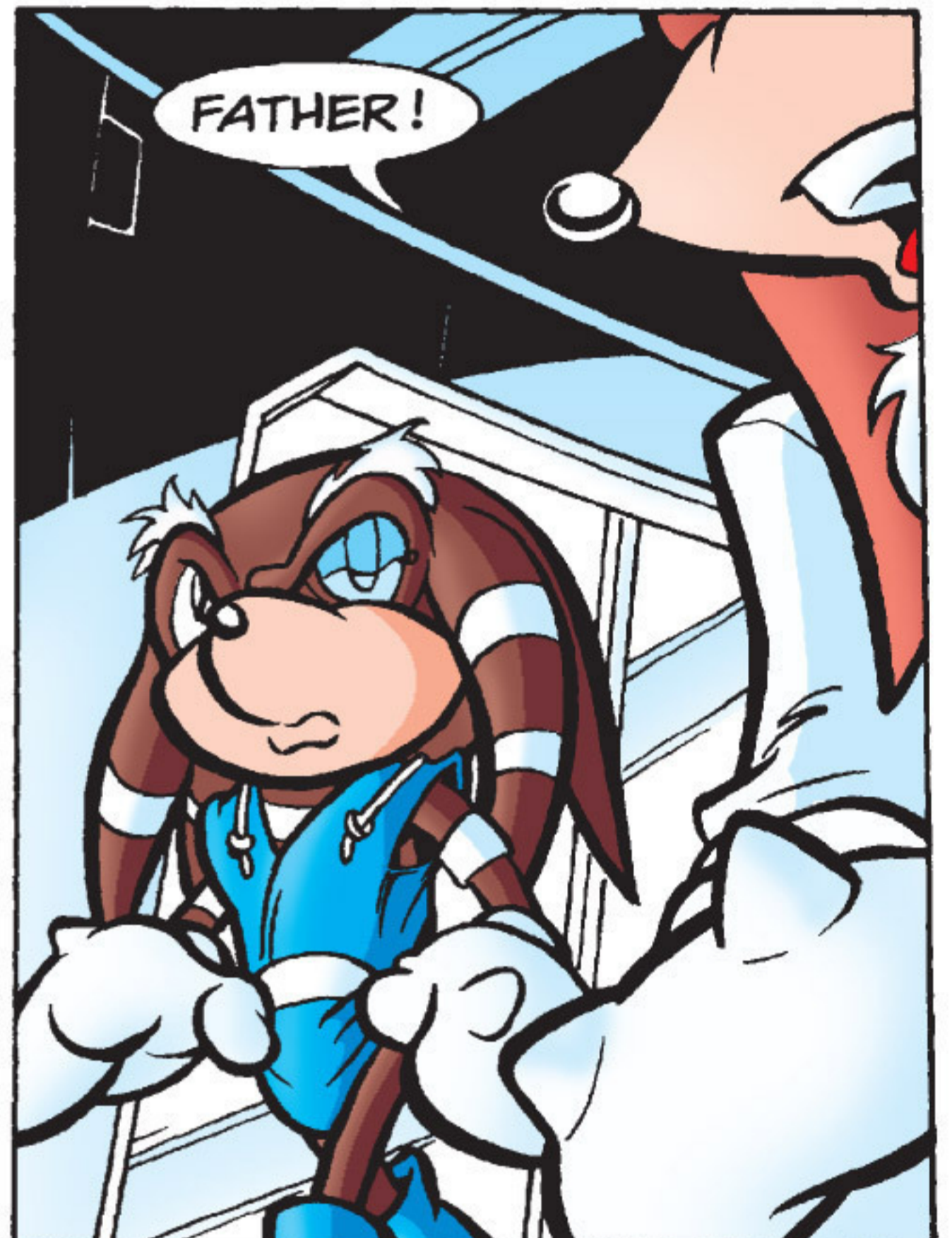
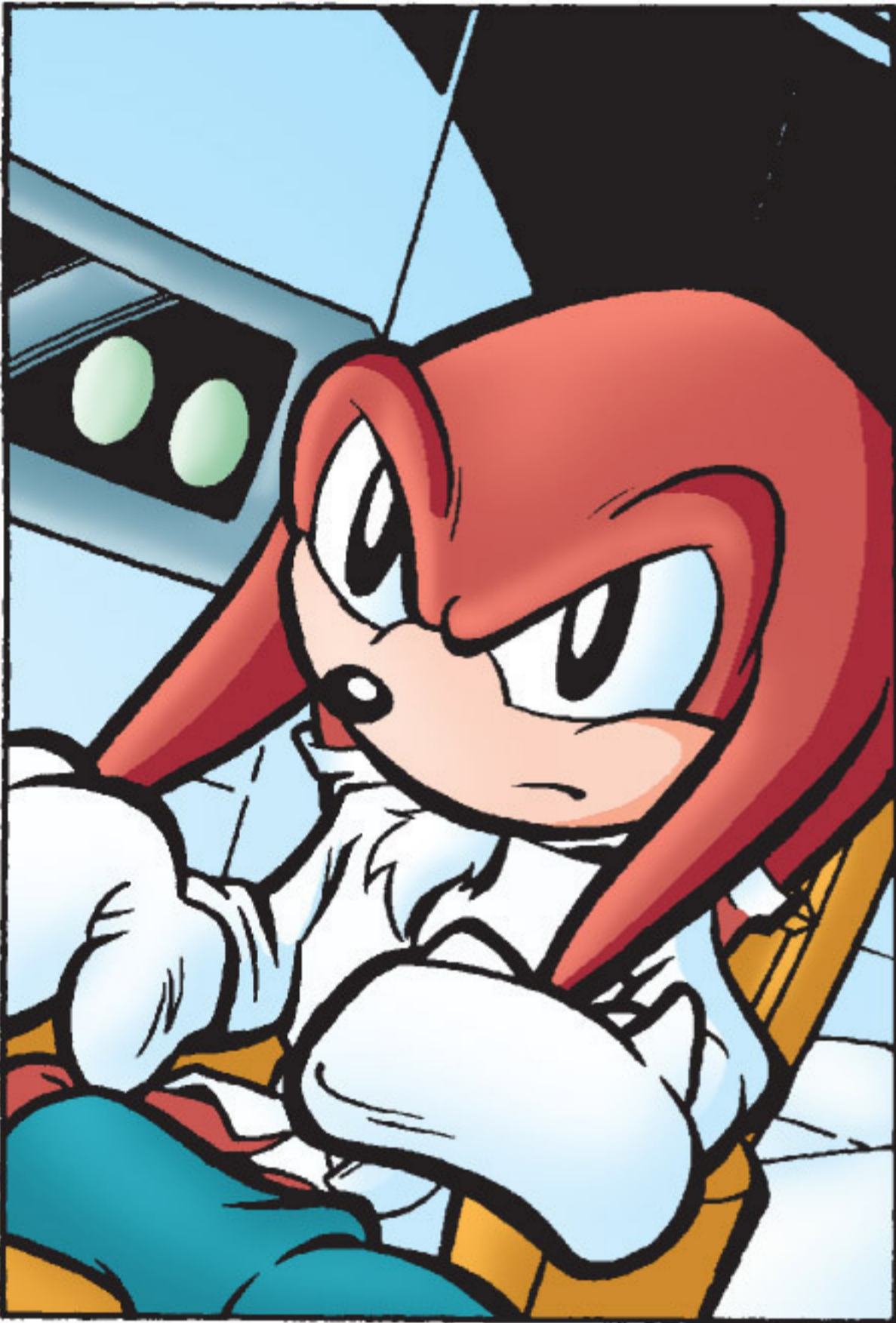
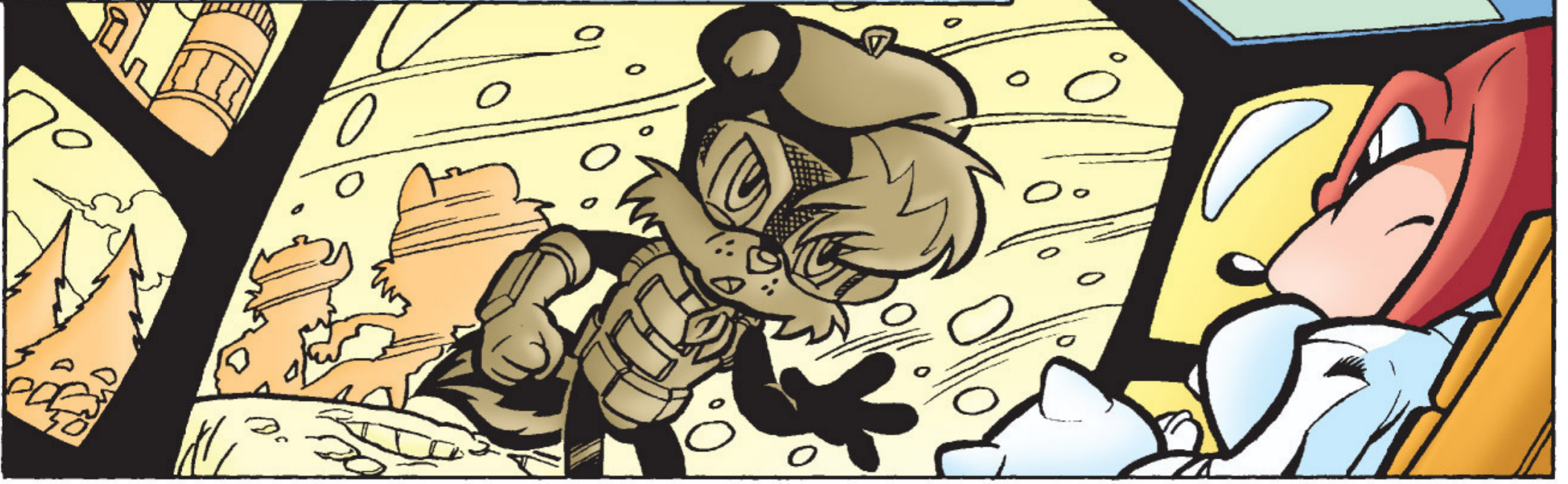


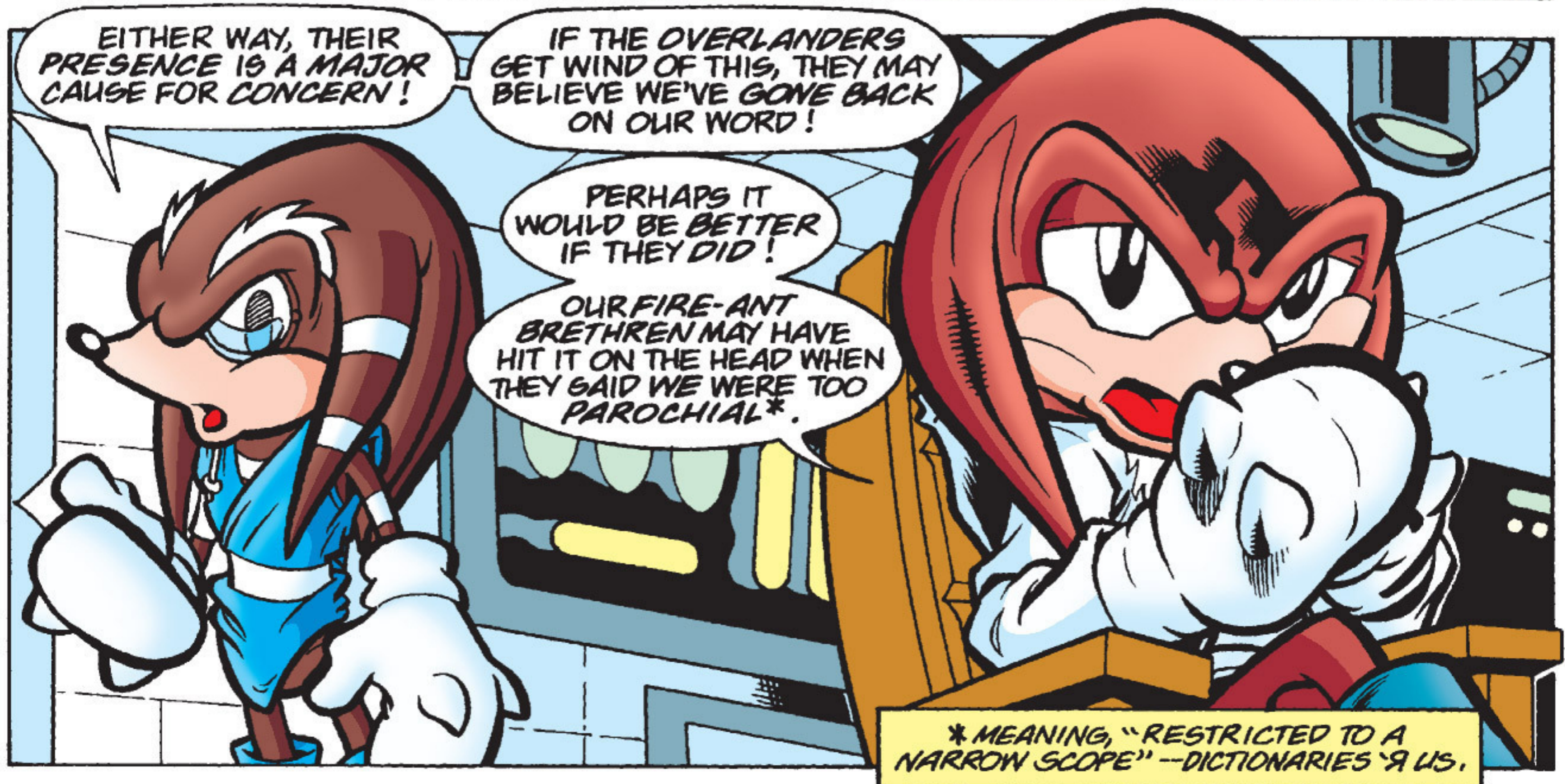
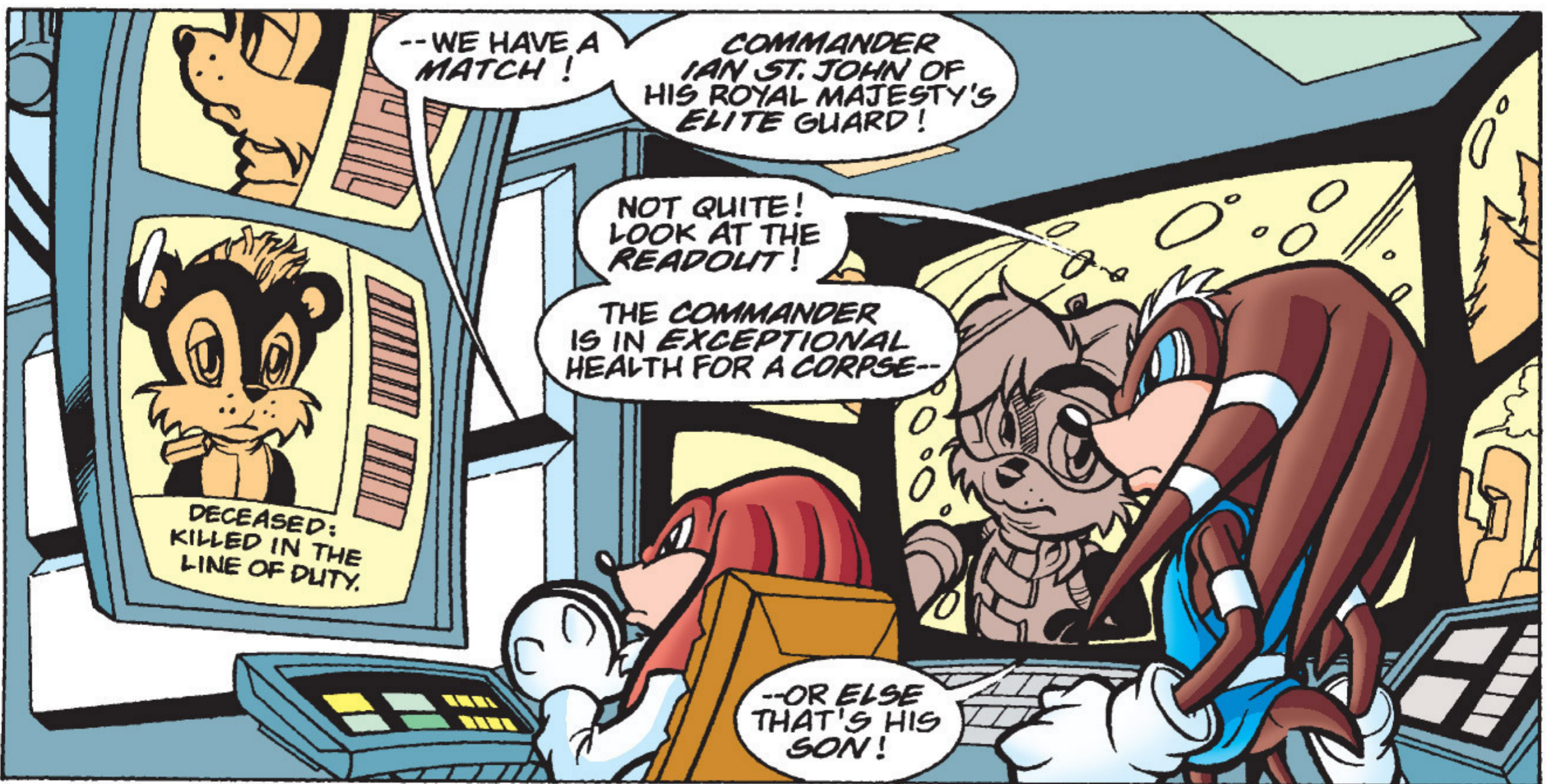
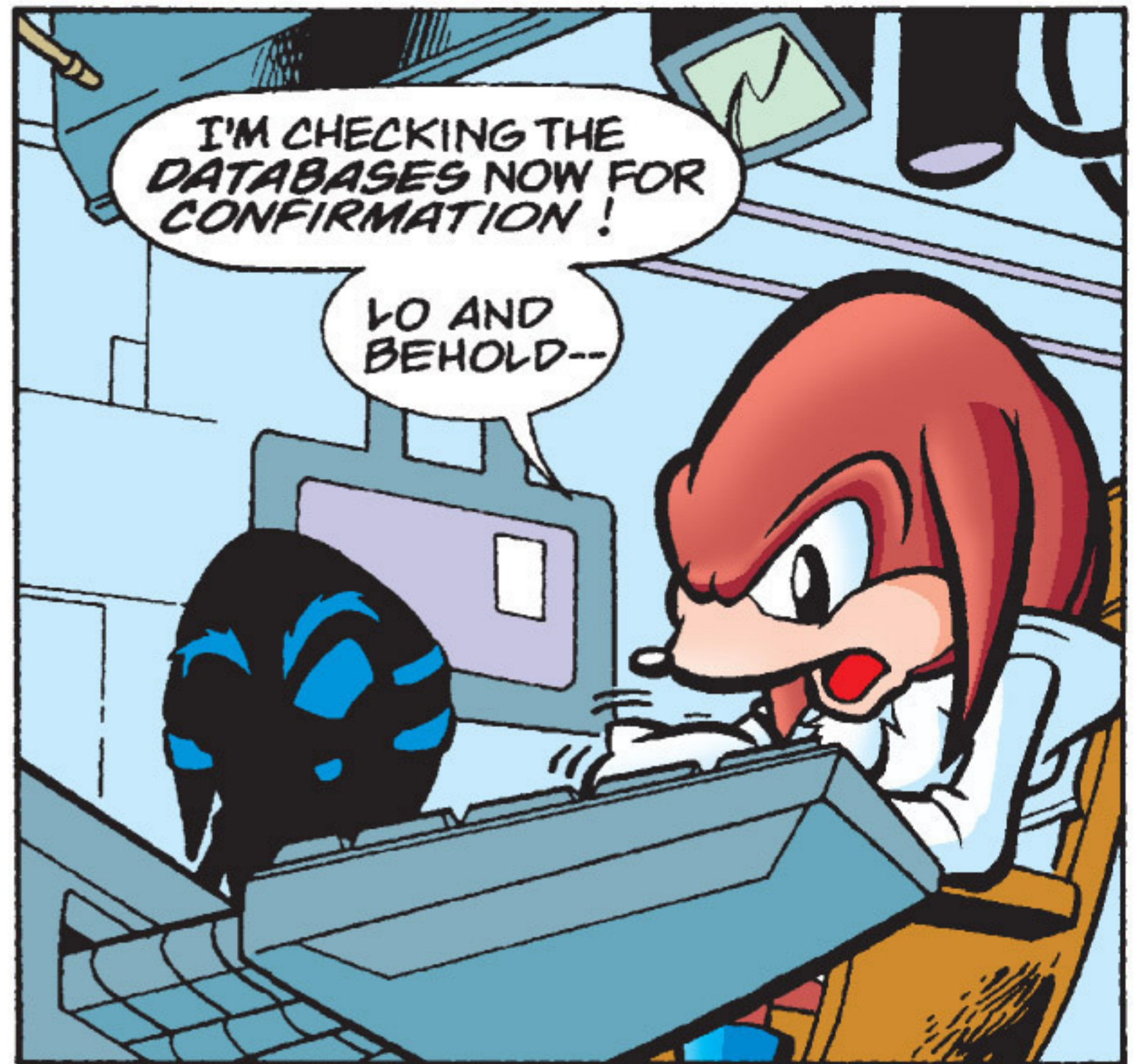
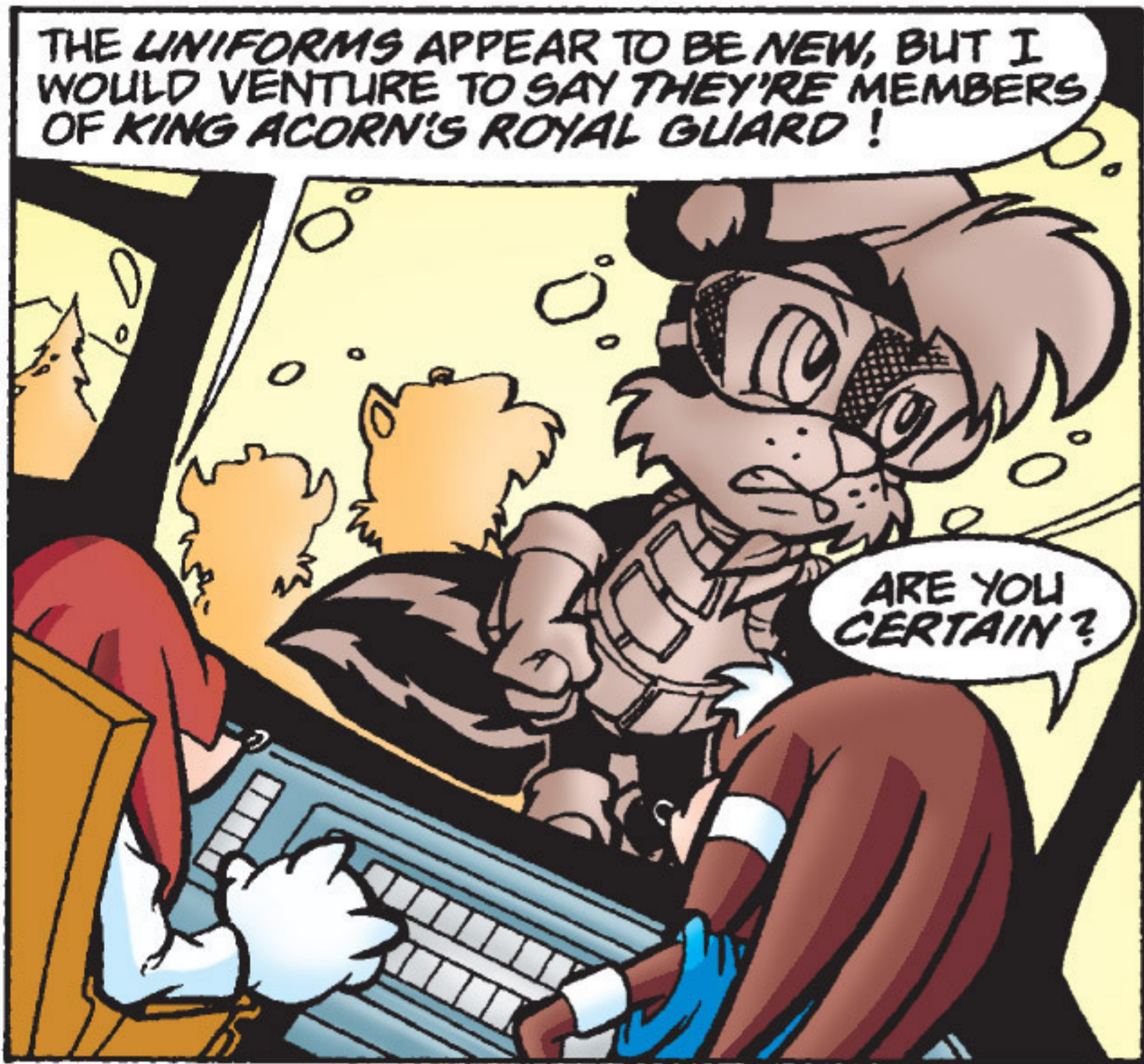
YOU HEARD VALDEZ, EVERYONE!

THAT MEANS-- BEST GUESS-- THAT THE ROYAL COMPOUND SHOULD BE LEFT AT 10:00!

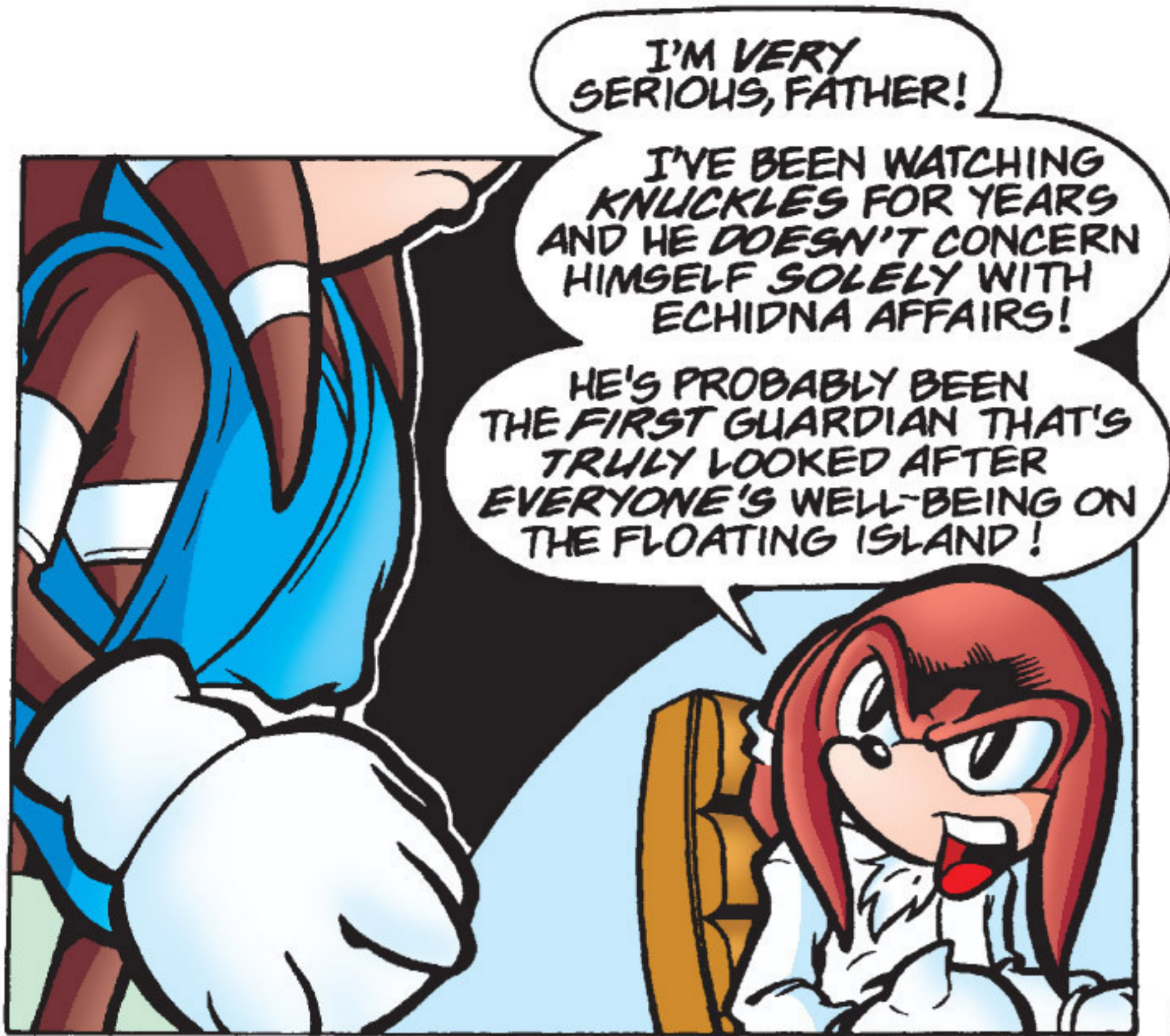
WITH ANY LUCK--

"--WE SHOULD REACH THE COMPOUND BEFORE NIGHTFALL!"





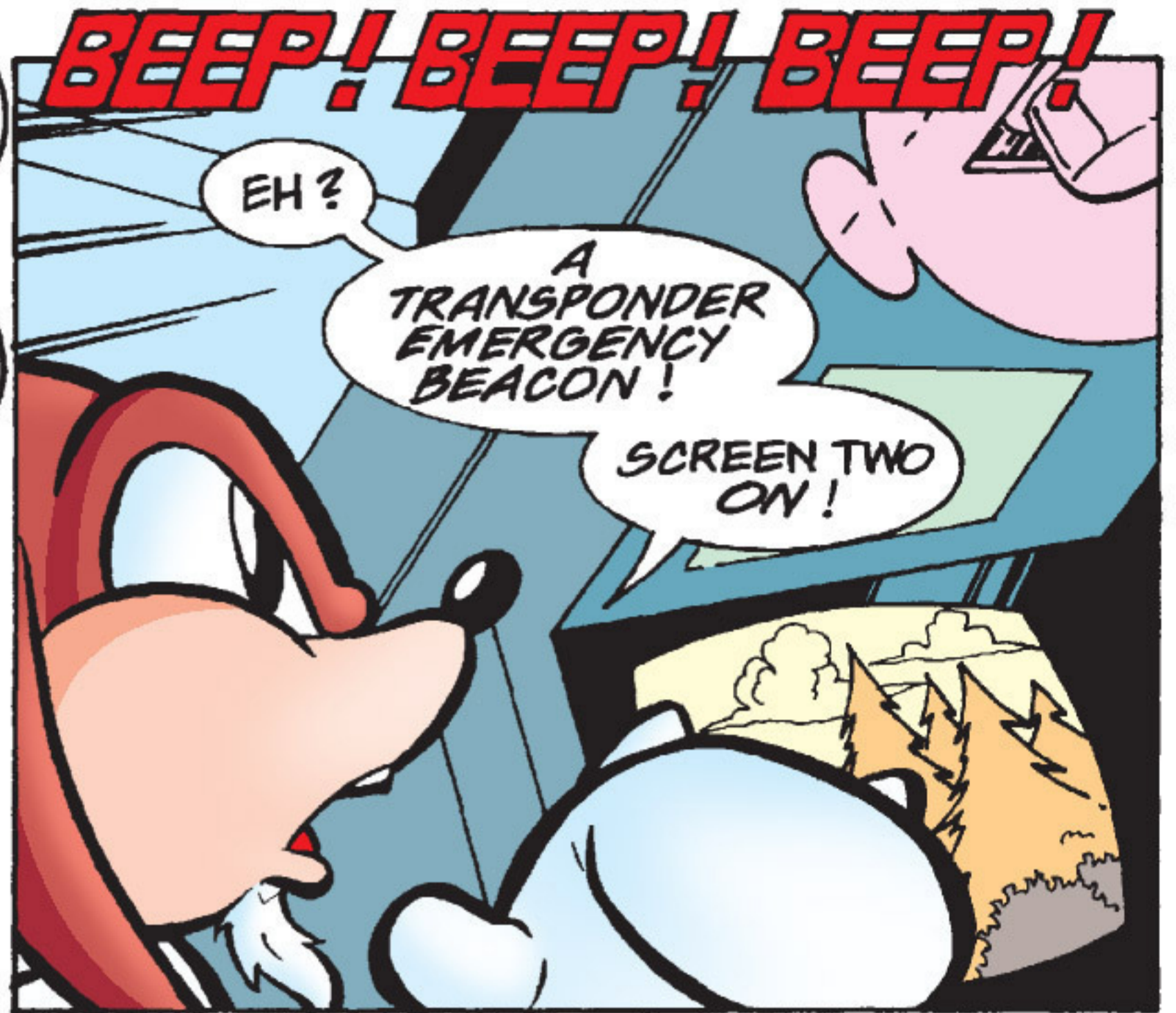




I'M VERY SERIOUS, FATHER!

I'VE BEEN WATCHING KNUCKLES FOR YEARS AND HE DOESN'T CONCERN HIMSELF SOLELY WITH ECHIDNA AFFAIRS!

HE'S PROBABLY BEEN THE FIRST GUARDIAN THAT'S TRULY LOOKED AFTER EVERYONE'S WELL-BEING ON THE FLOATING ISLAND!

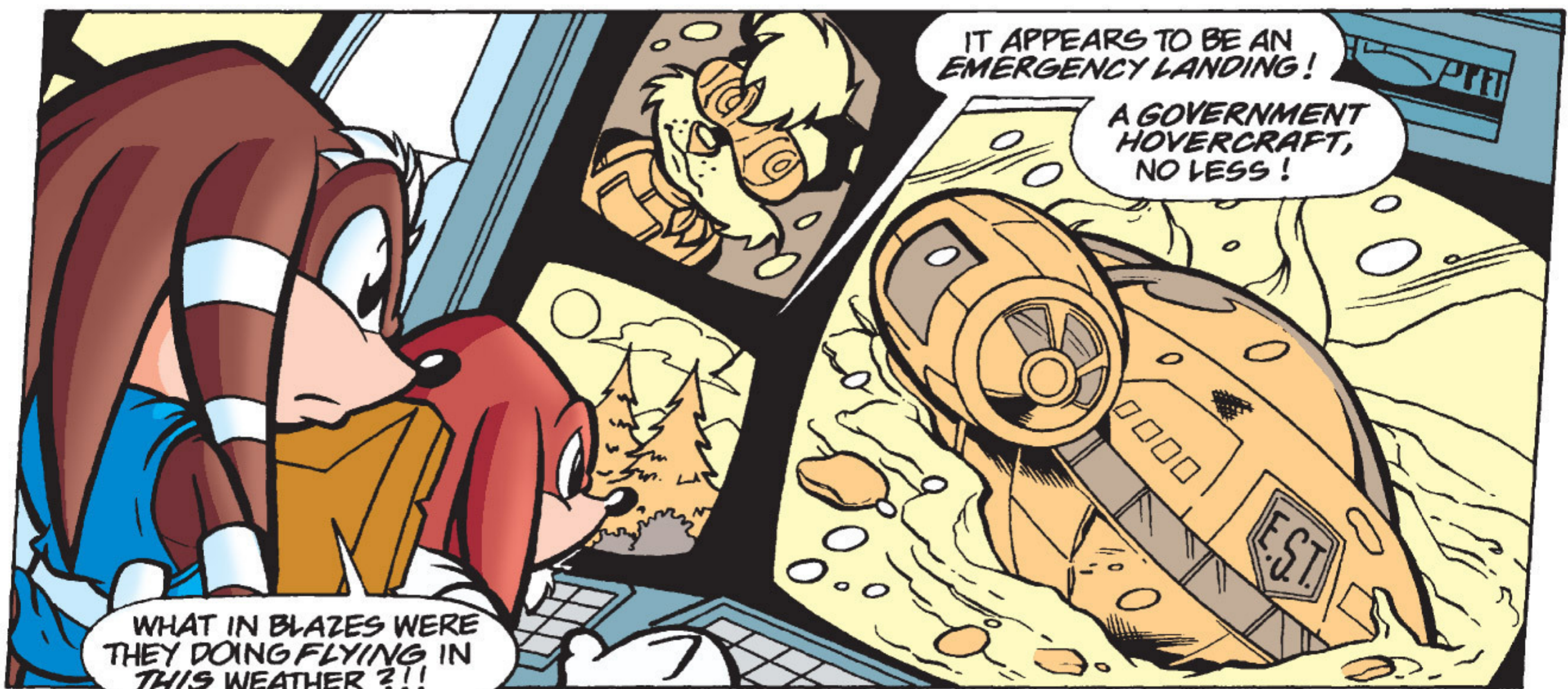


**BEEP! BEEP! BEEP!**

EH?

A TRANSPONDER EMERGENCY BEACON!

SCREEN TWO ON!



IT APPEARS TO BE AN EMERGENCY LANDING!

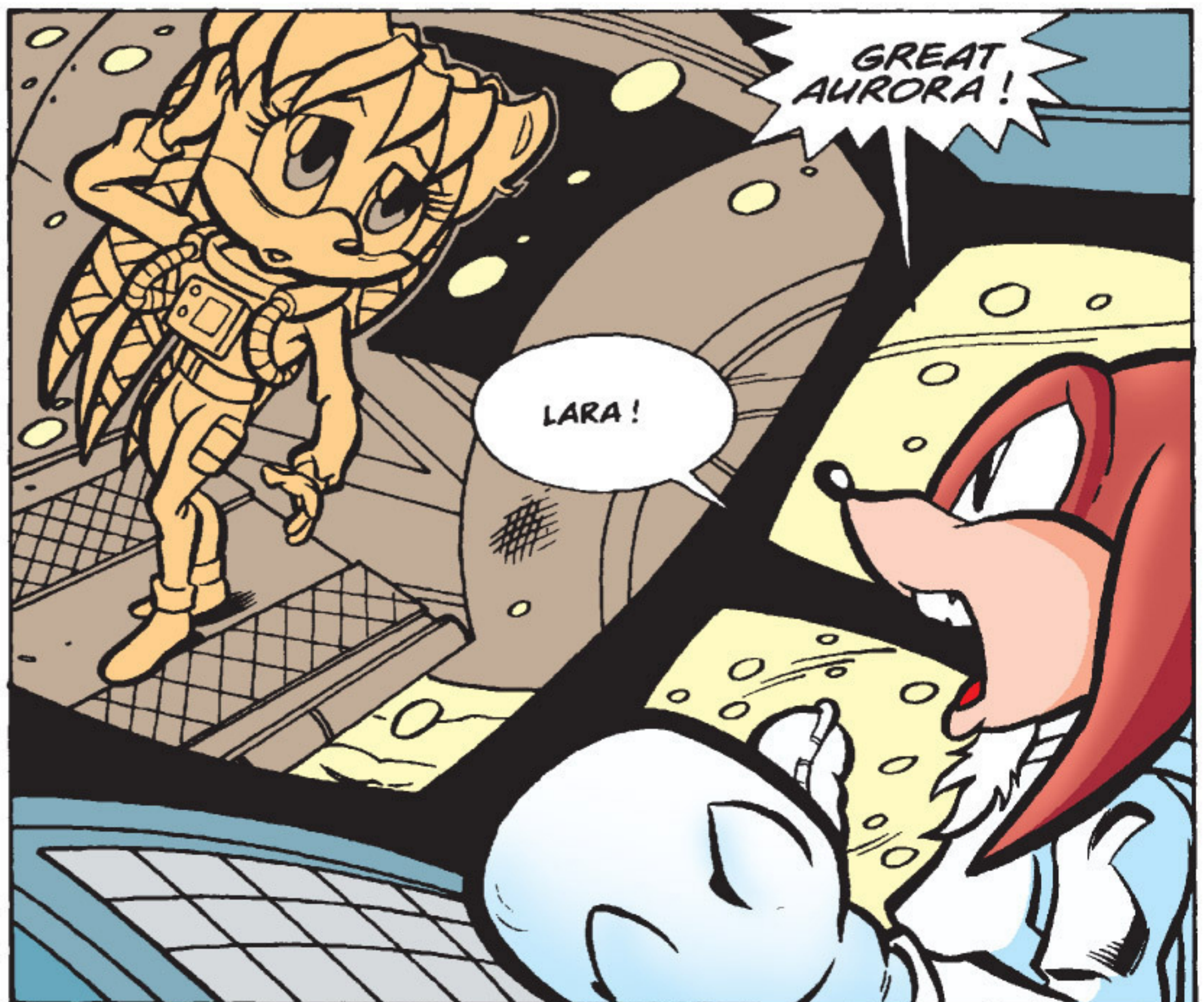
A GOVERNMENT HOVERCRAFT, NO LESS!

WHAT IN BLAZES WERE THEY DOING FLYING IN THIS WEATHER?!!



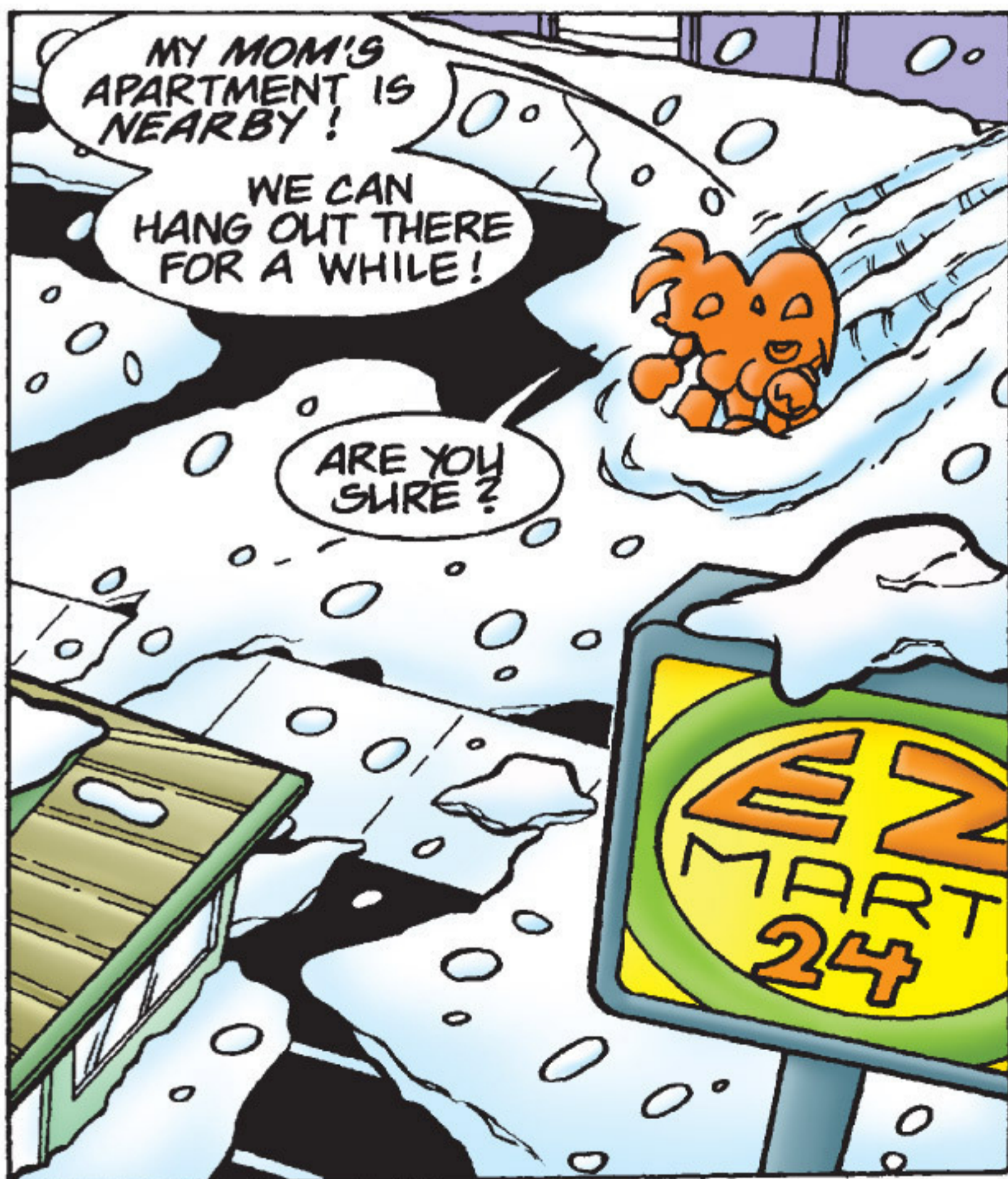
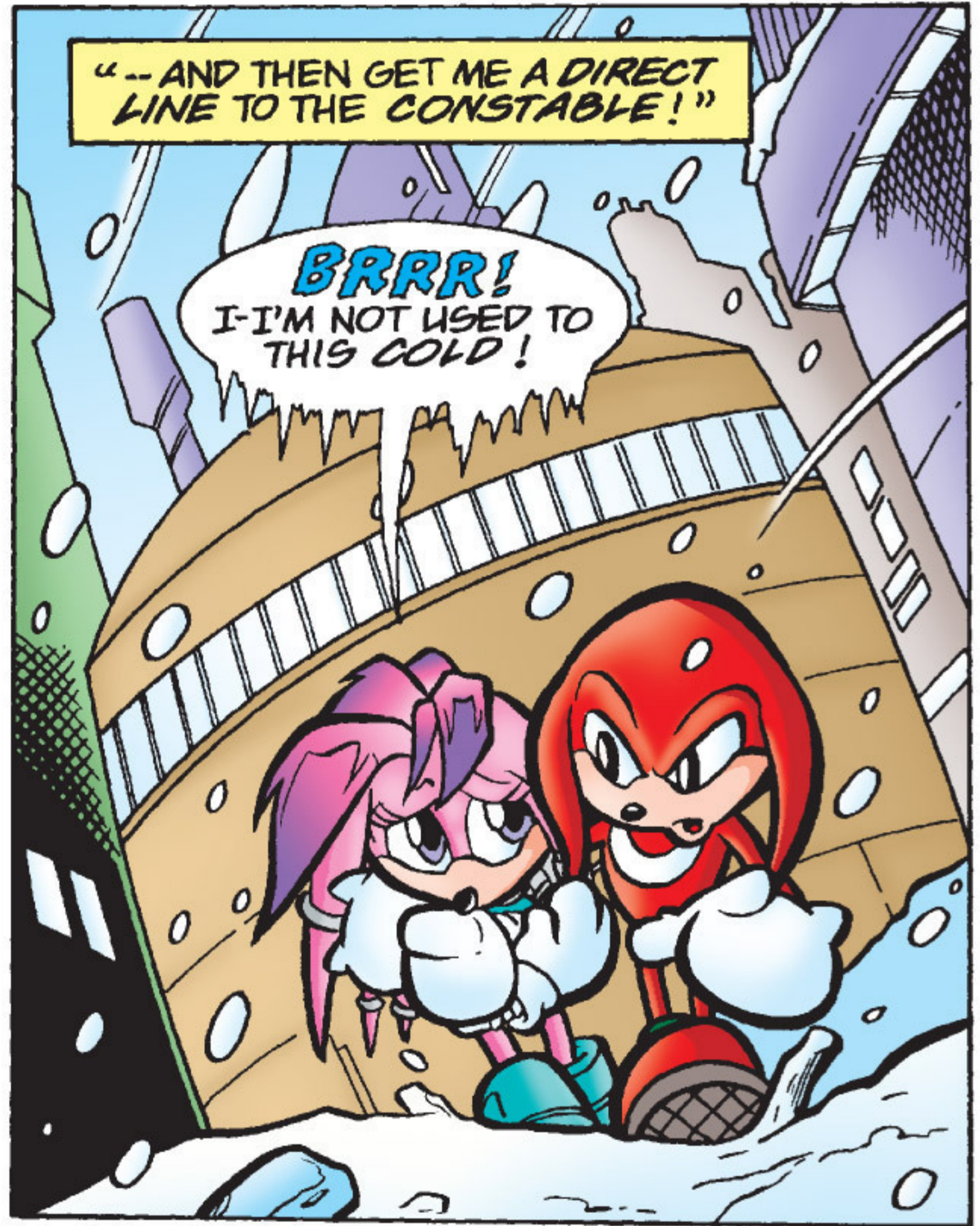
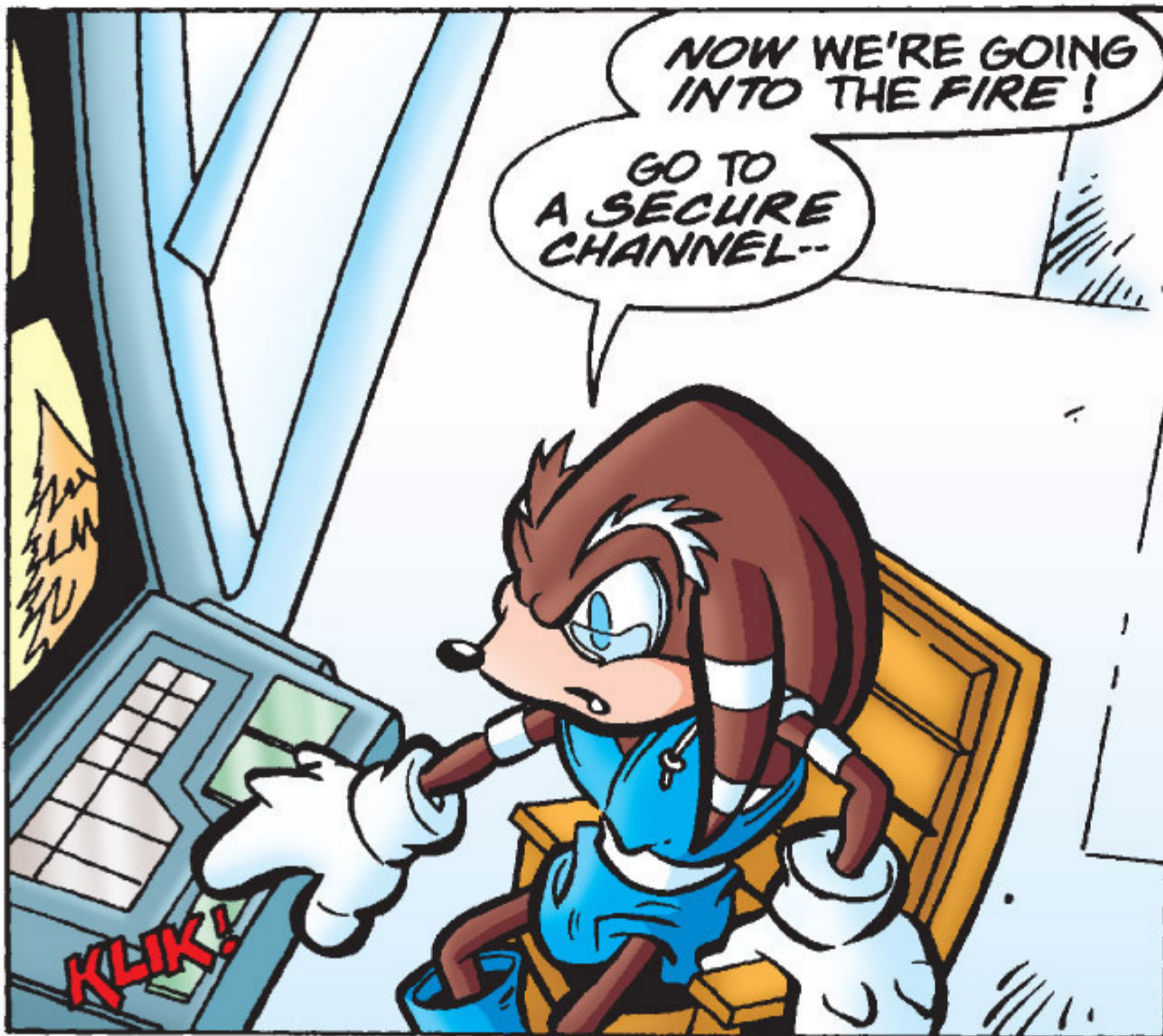
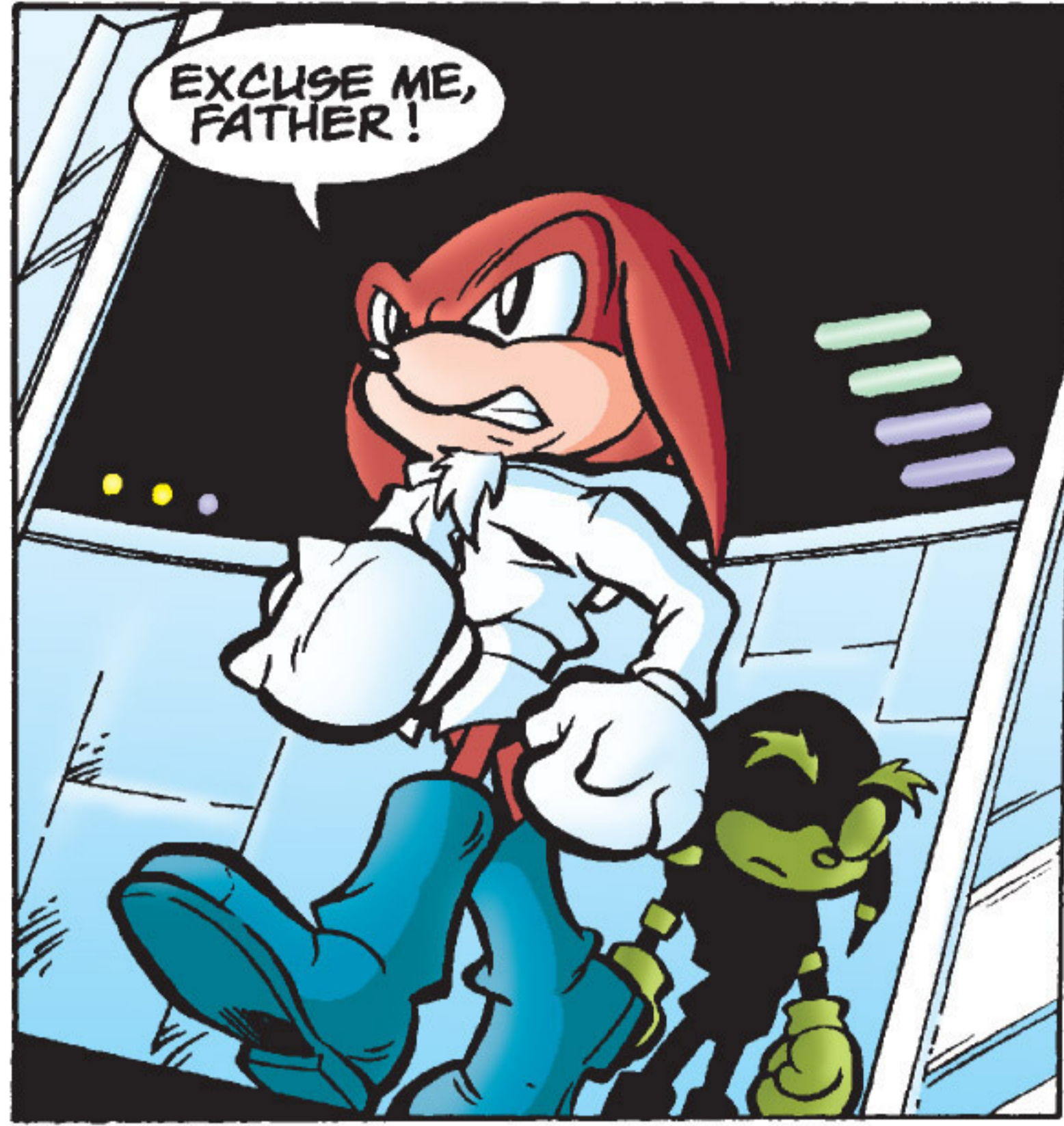
I'M SURE CONSTABLE REMINGTON WILL HAVE A FEW CHOICE WORDS TO SAY ONCE HIS MEN REACH THE CRAFT!

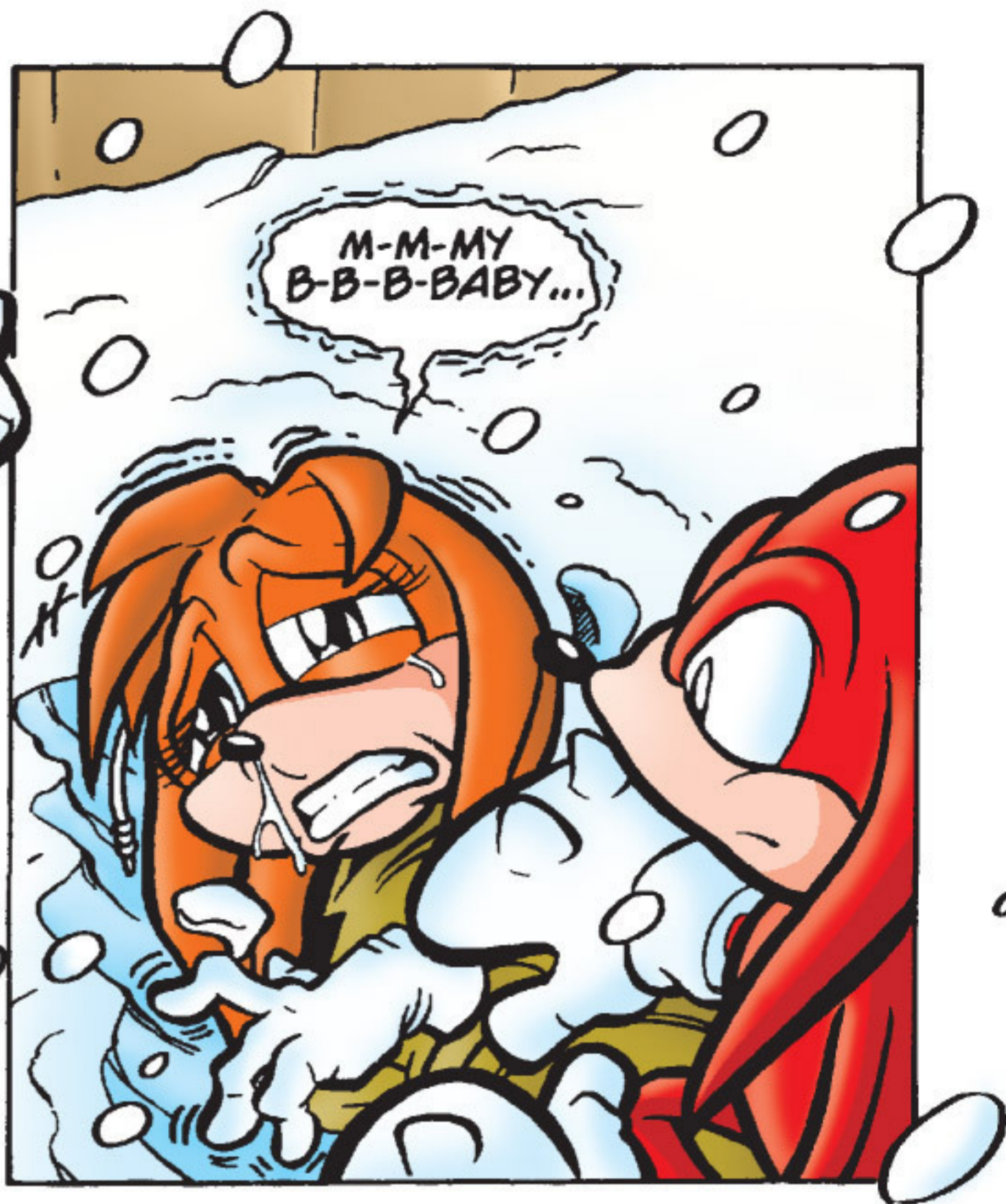
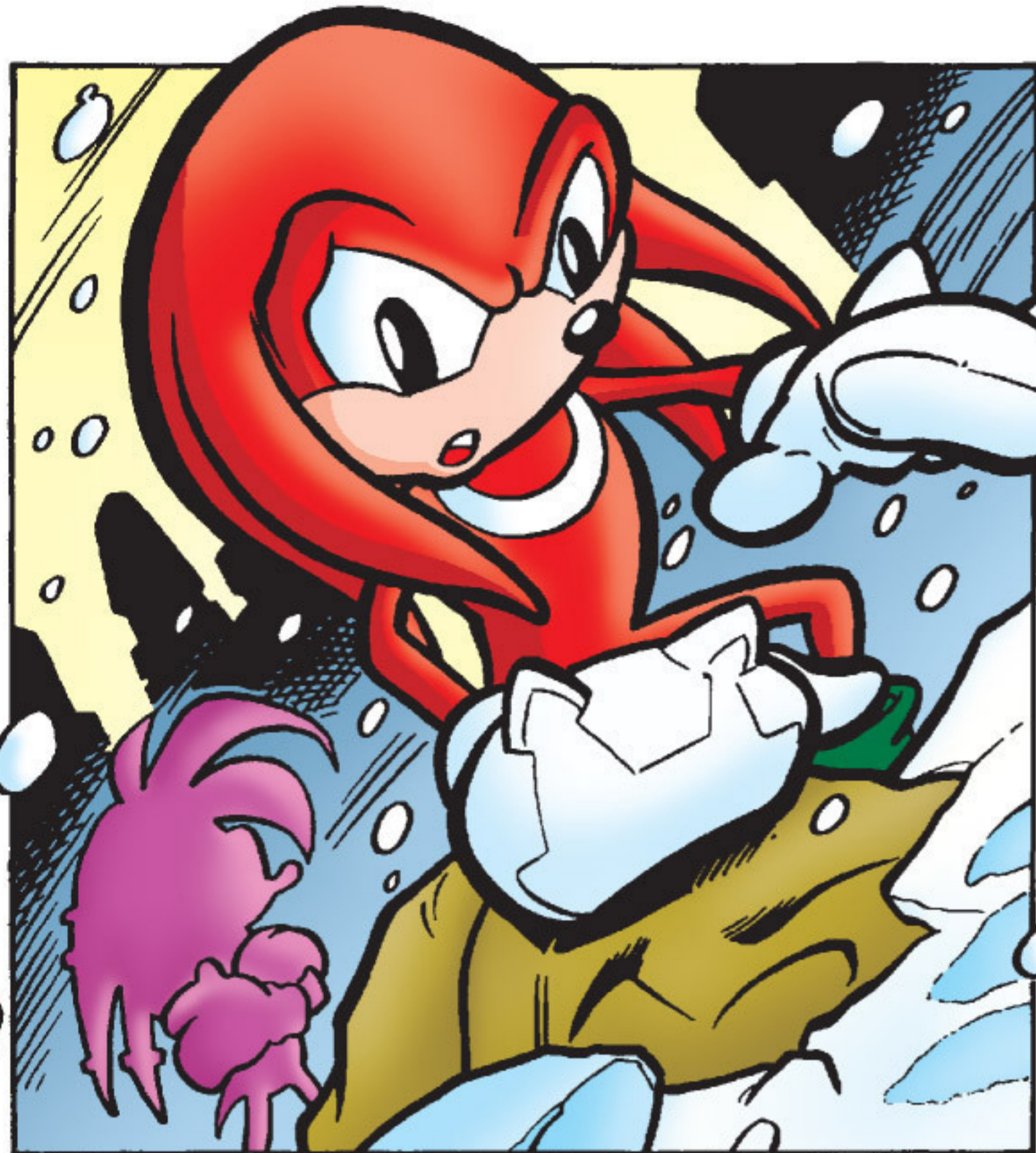
**WHA-?!!**

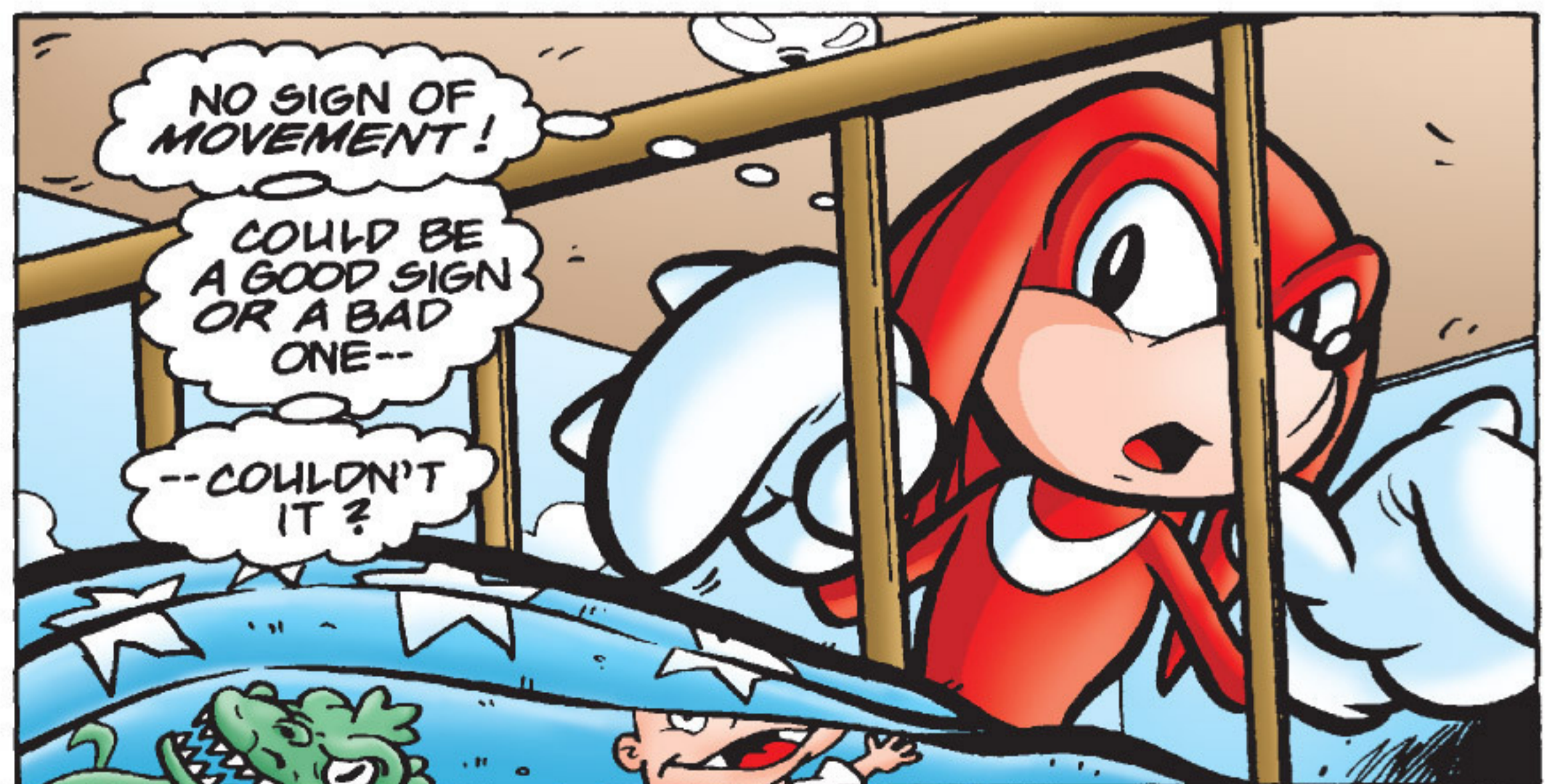
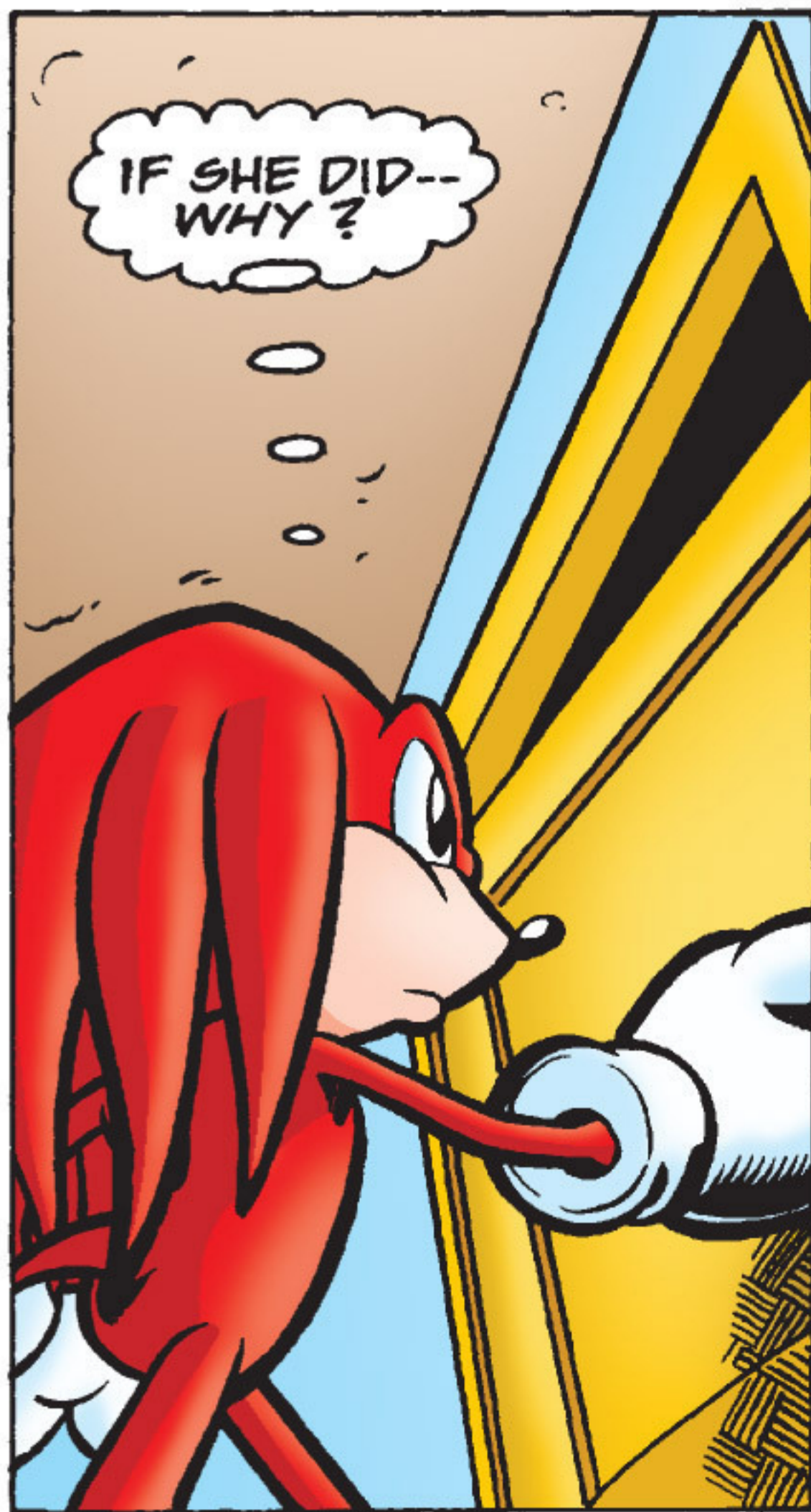
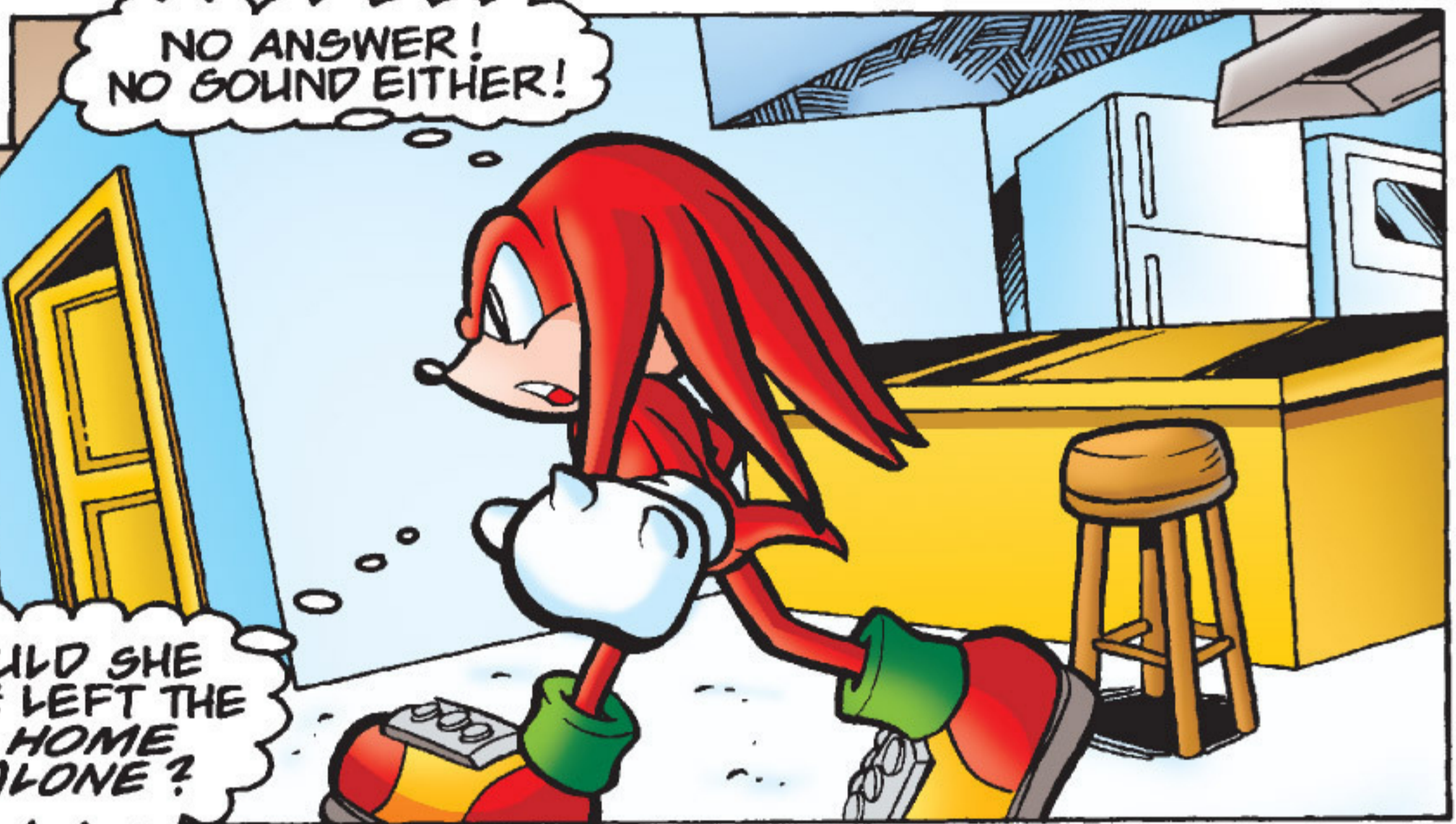
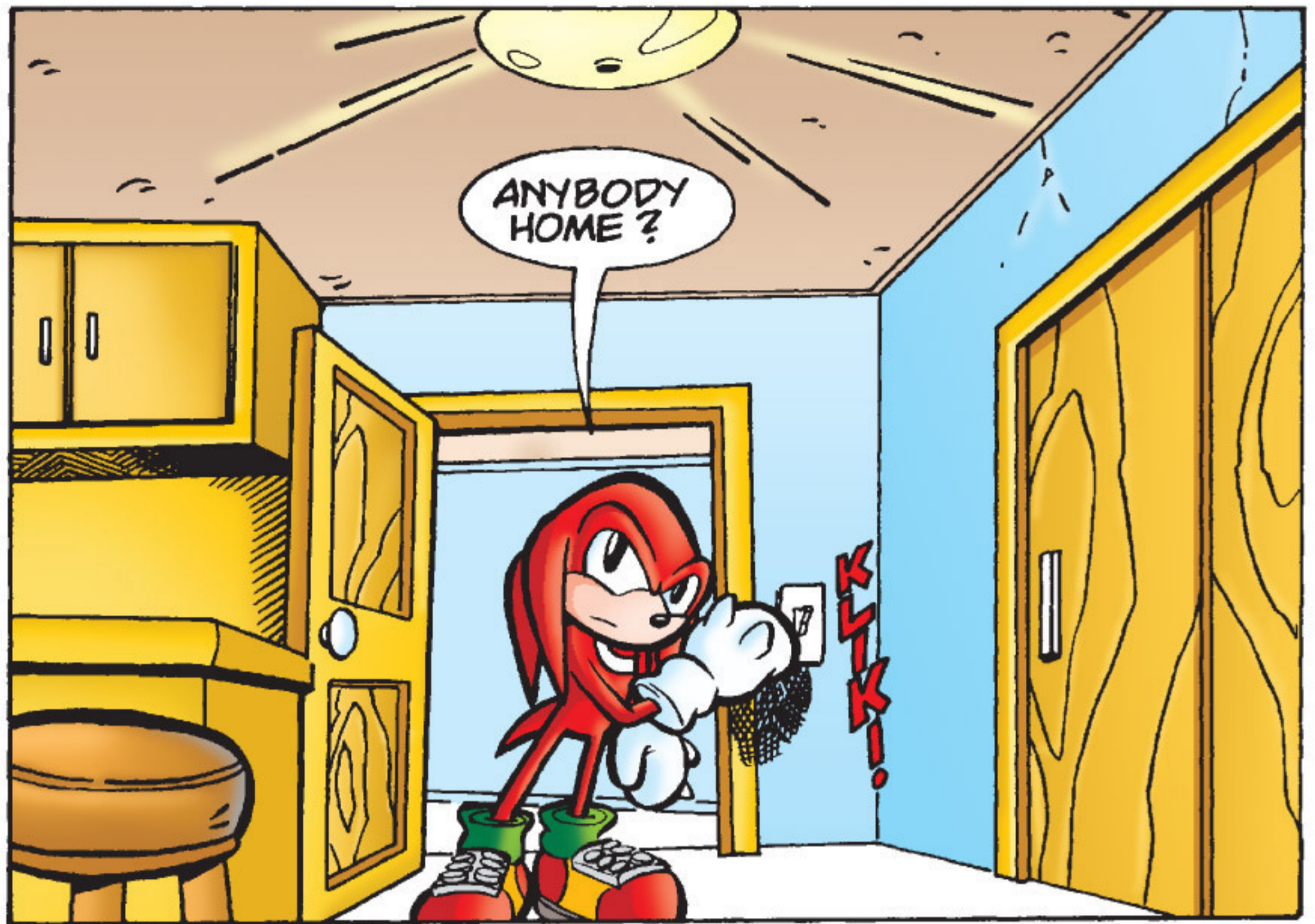
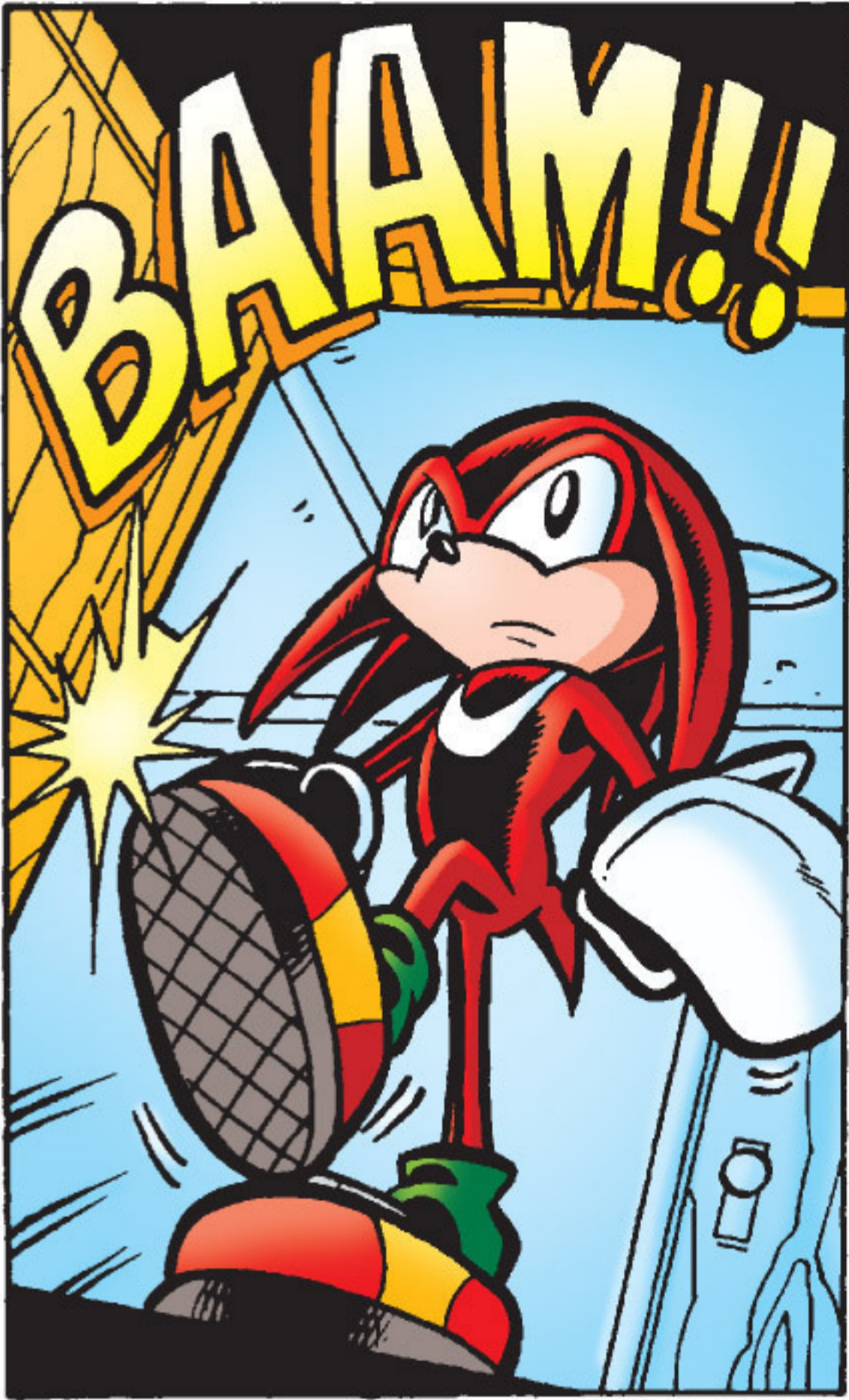


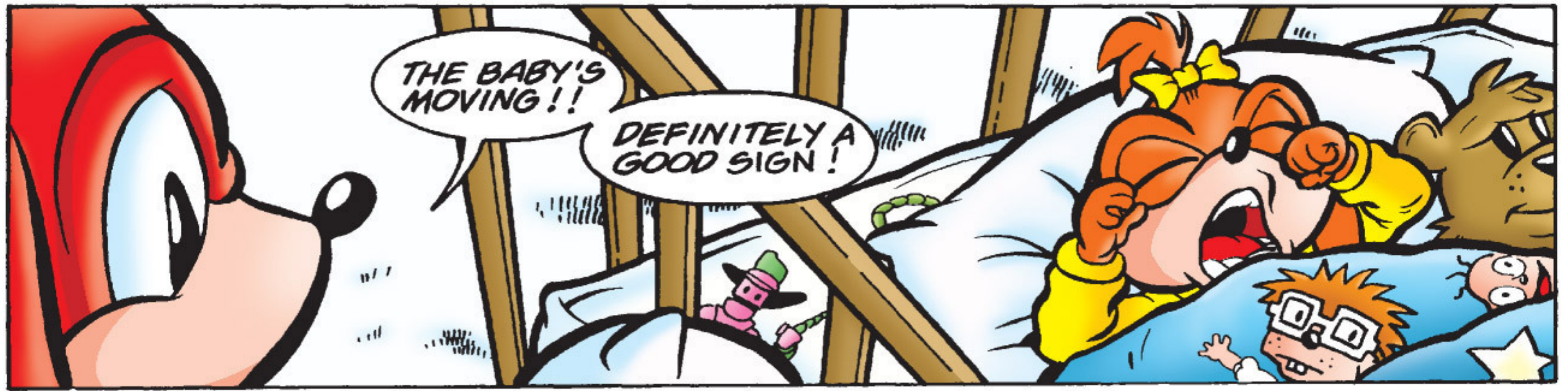
GREAT AURORA!

LARA!



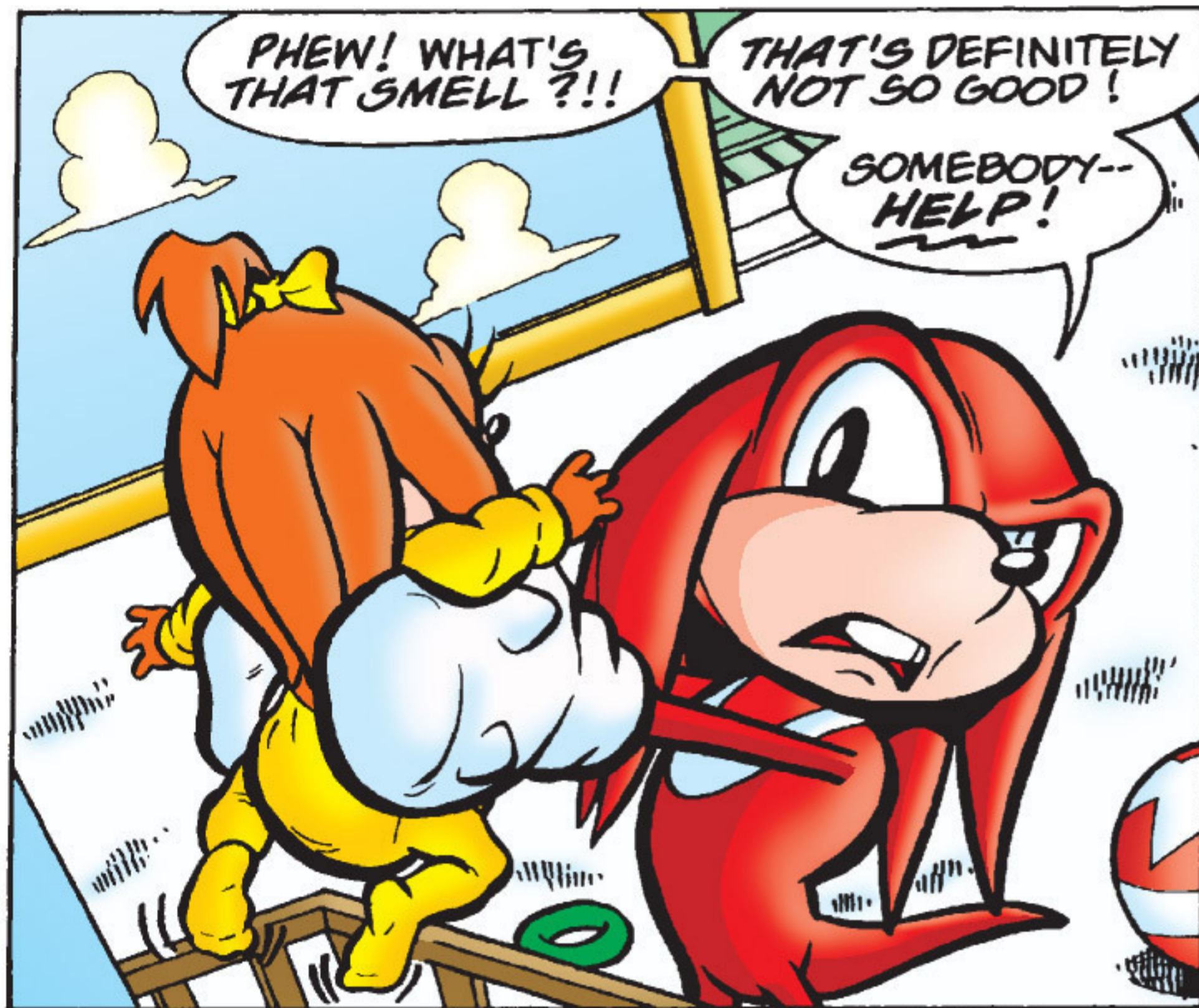






THE BABY'S MOVING!!

DEFINITELY A GOOD SIGN!



PHEW! WHAT'S THAT SMELL?!!

THAT'S DEFINITELY NOT SO GOOD!

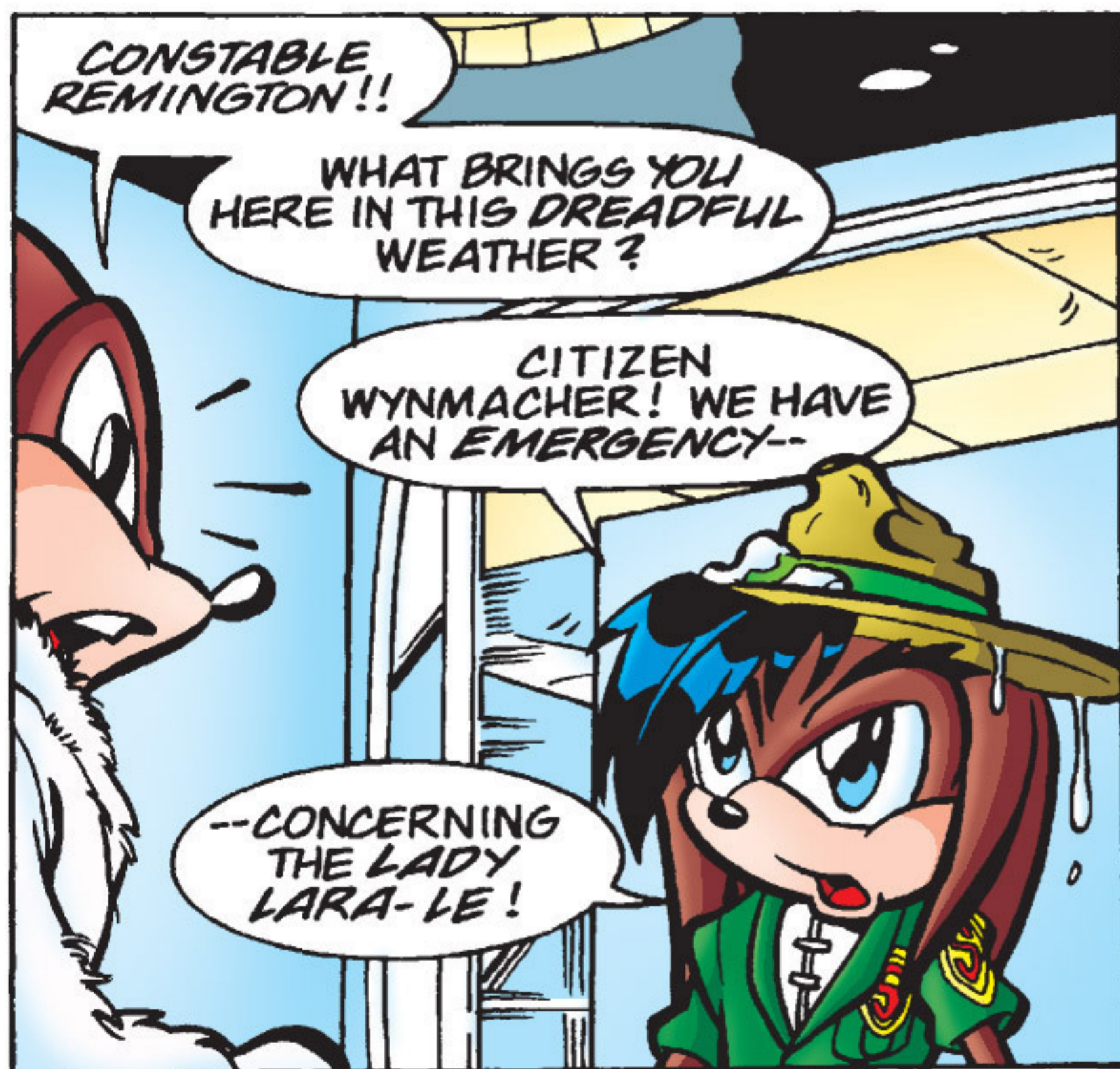
SOMEBODY-- HELP!



DING DONG!

"WONDER WHO THAT COULD BE?"

JUST A MOMENT!

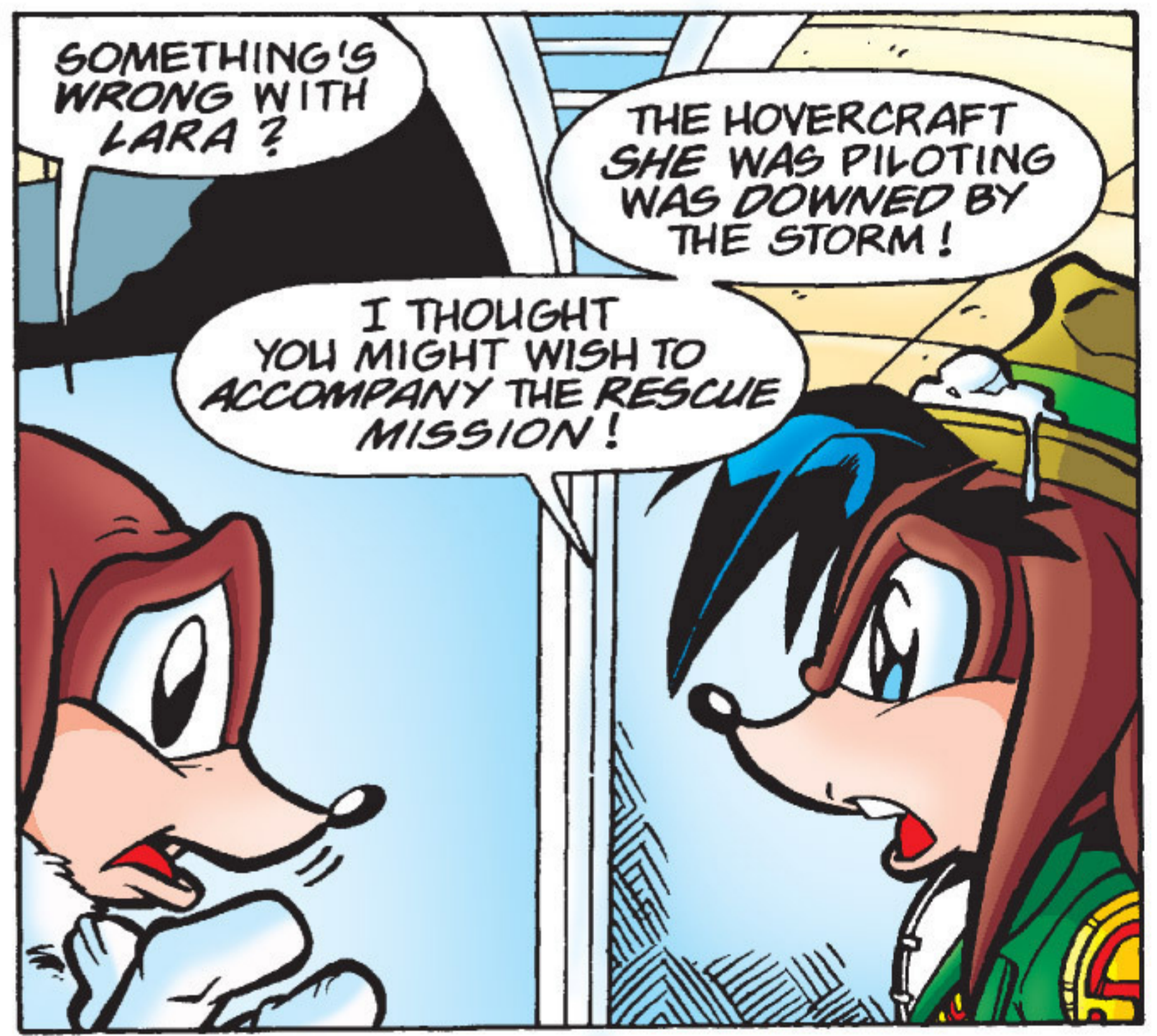


CONSTABLE REMINGTON!!

WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE IN THIS DREADFUL WEATHER?

CITIZEN WYNNACHER! WE HAVE AN EMERGENCY--

--CONCERNING THE LADY LARA-LE!



SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH LARA?

THE HOVERCRAFT SHE WAS PILOTING WAS DOWNED BY THE STORM!

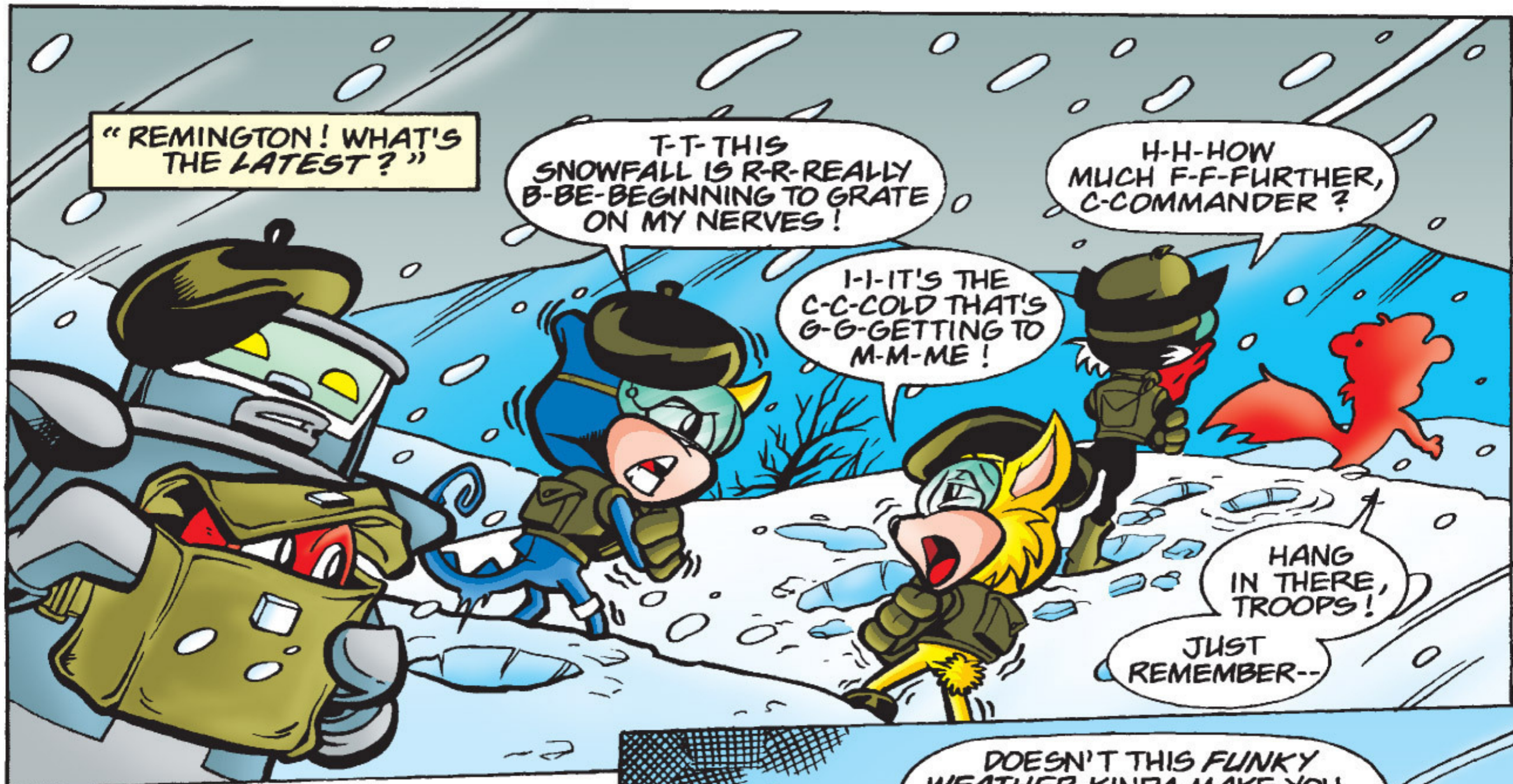
I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT WISH TO ACCOMPANY THE RESCUE MISSION!



MOST CERTAINLY!

JUST GIVE ME A MOMENT!

I'VE A VEHICLE WAITING TO GO AS SOON AS YOU'RE READY!



"REMINGTON! WHAT'S THE LATEST?"

T-T-THIS SNOWFALL IS R-R-REALLY B-BE-BEGINNING TO GRATE ON MY NERVES!

H-H-HOW MUCH F-F-FURTHER, C-COMMANDER?

I-I-IT'S THE C-C-COLD THAT'S G-G-GETTING TO M-M-ME!

HANG IN THERE, TROOPS!

JUST REMEMBER--



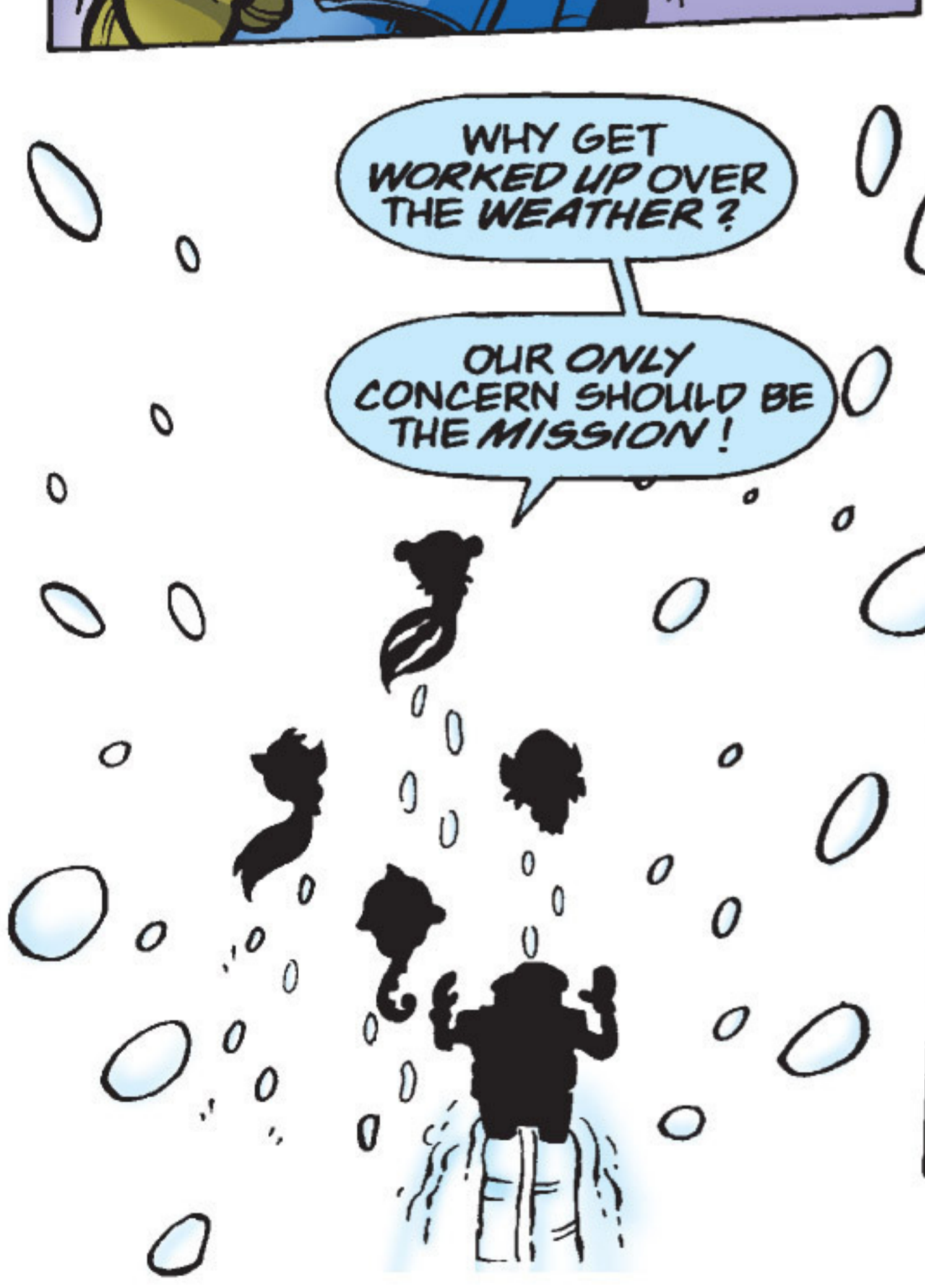
--W-W-WHEN THE GOING G-GETS TOUGH--

--THE TOUGH KEEP TRUDGING ON THROUGH THE SNOW!



DOESN'T THIS FUNKY WEATHER KINDA MAKE YOU THINK SOMETHING BIGGER'S GOING ON?

ROTOR TOLD ME RECENTLY HE THOUGHT ALL OF ROBOTNIK'S POLLUTION WOULD BE A PROBLEM IN THE LONG RUN!



WHY GET WORKED UP OVER THE WEATHER?

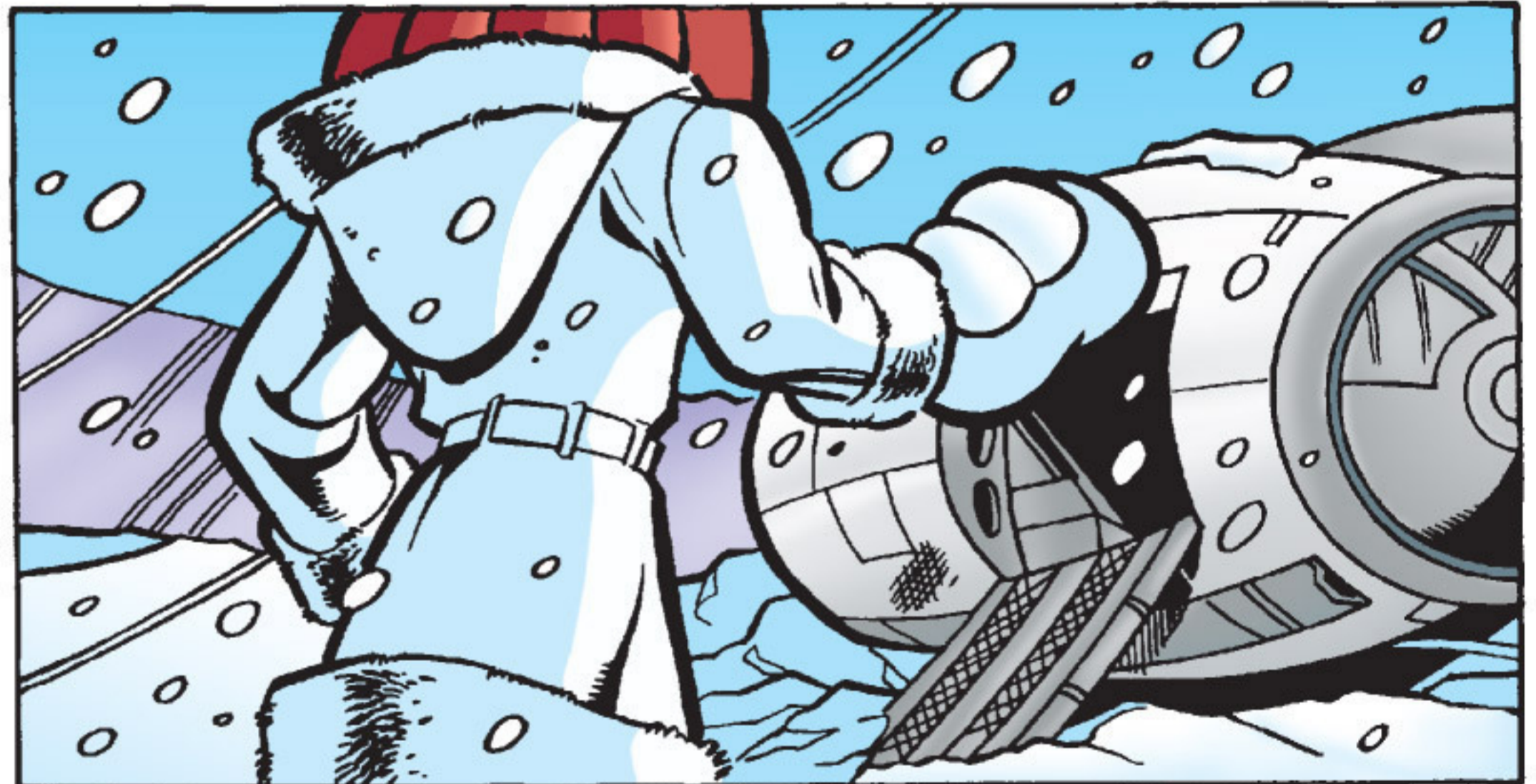
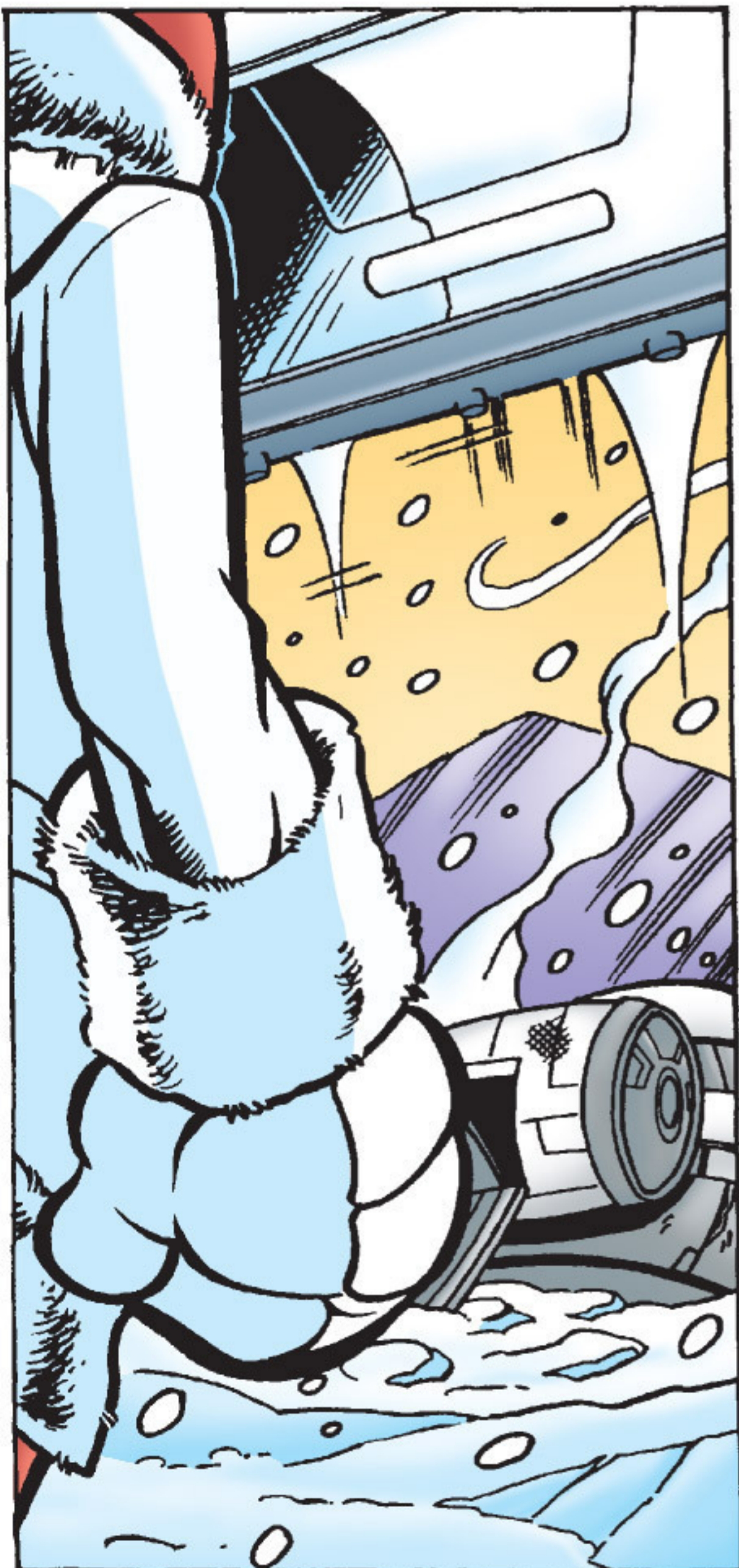
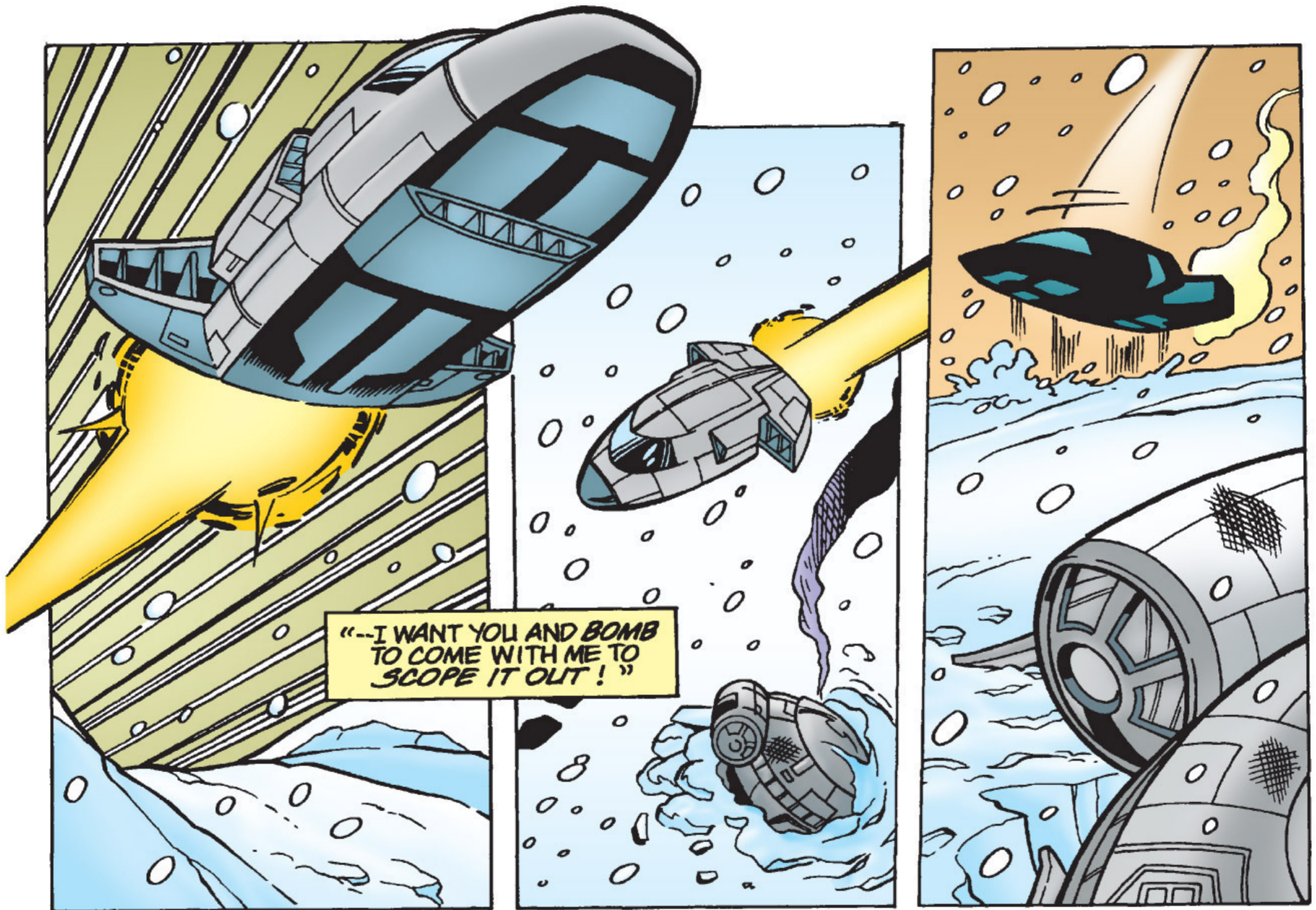
OUR ONLY CONCERN SHOULD BE THE MISSION!



SPEAKING OF WHICH--

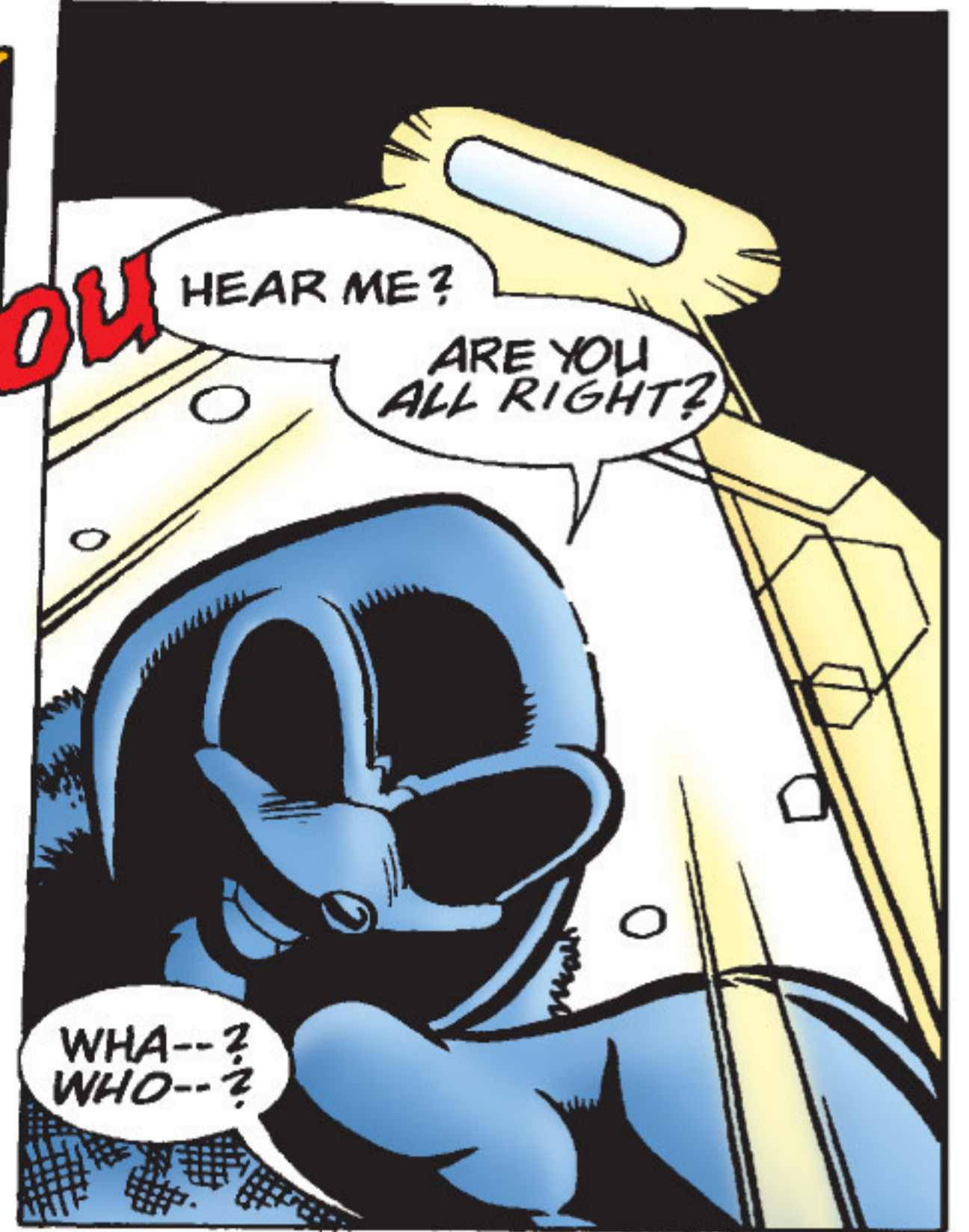
THERE'S SOMETHING UP AHEAD!

HEAVY--





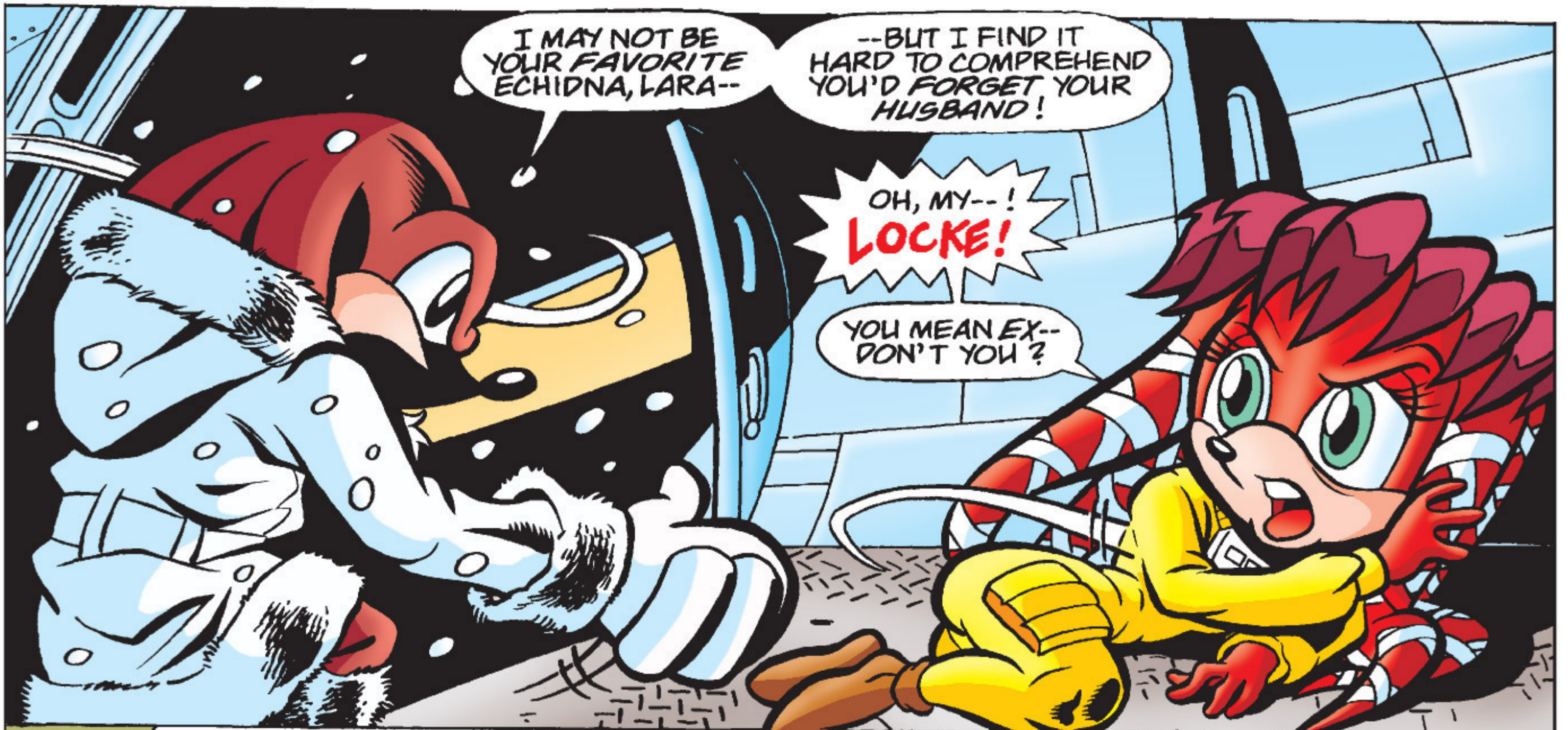
**LARA!  
CAN YOU**



HEAR ME?

ARE YOU  
ALL RIGHT?

WHA--?  
WHO--?



I MAY NOT BE  
YOUR FAVORITE  
ECHIDNA, LARA--

--BUT I FIND IT  
HARD TO COMPREHEND  
YOU'D FORGET YOUR  
HUSBAND!

OH, MY--!  
**LOCKE!**

YOU MEAN EX--  
DON'T YOU?



HERE I AM ALL CONCERNED ABOUT  
YOU, AND YOU'RE IMMEDIATELY ON  
THE DEFENSIVE!

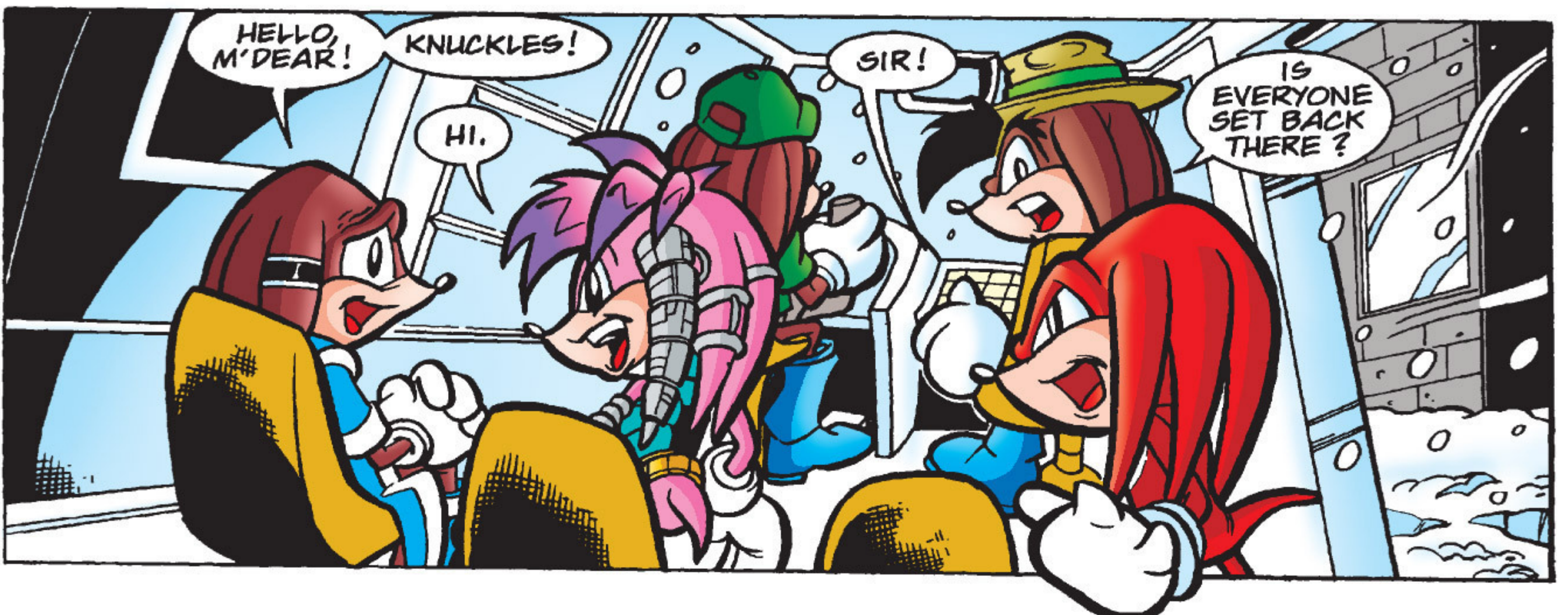
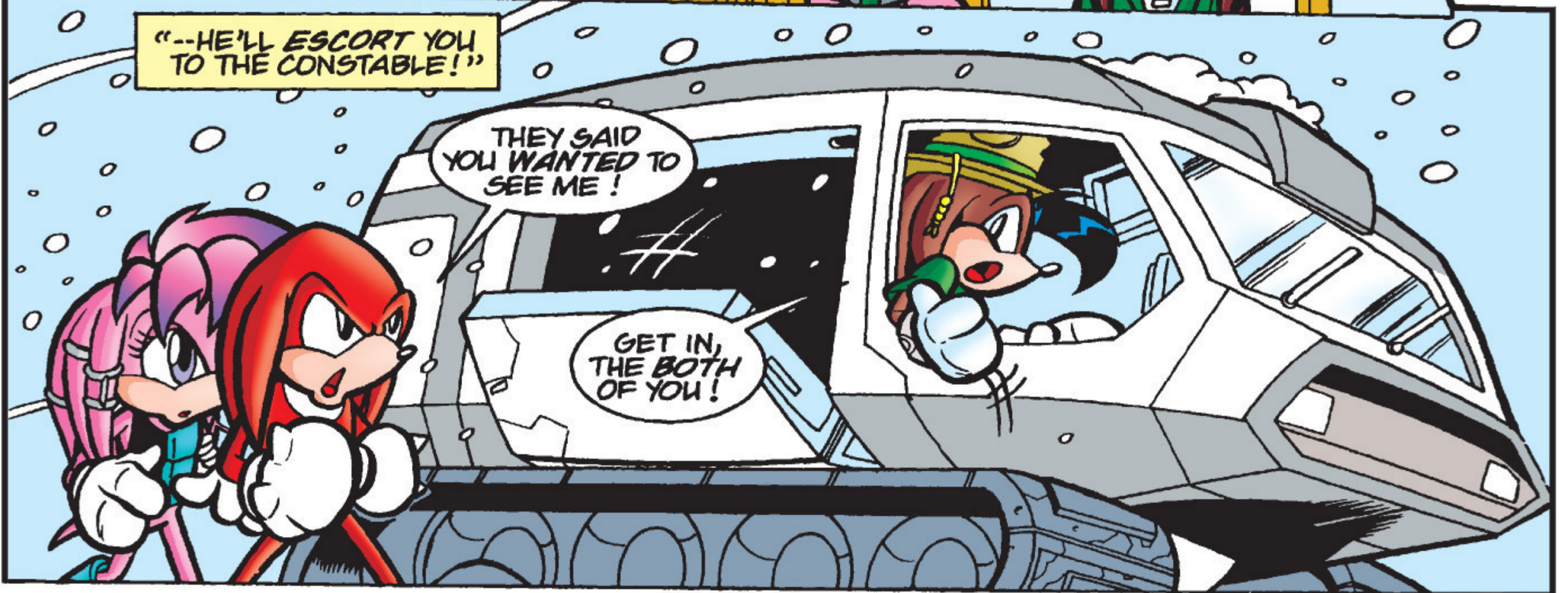
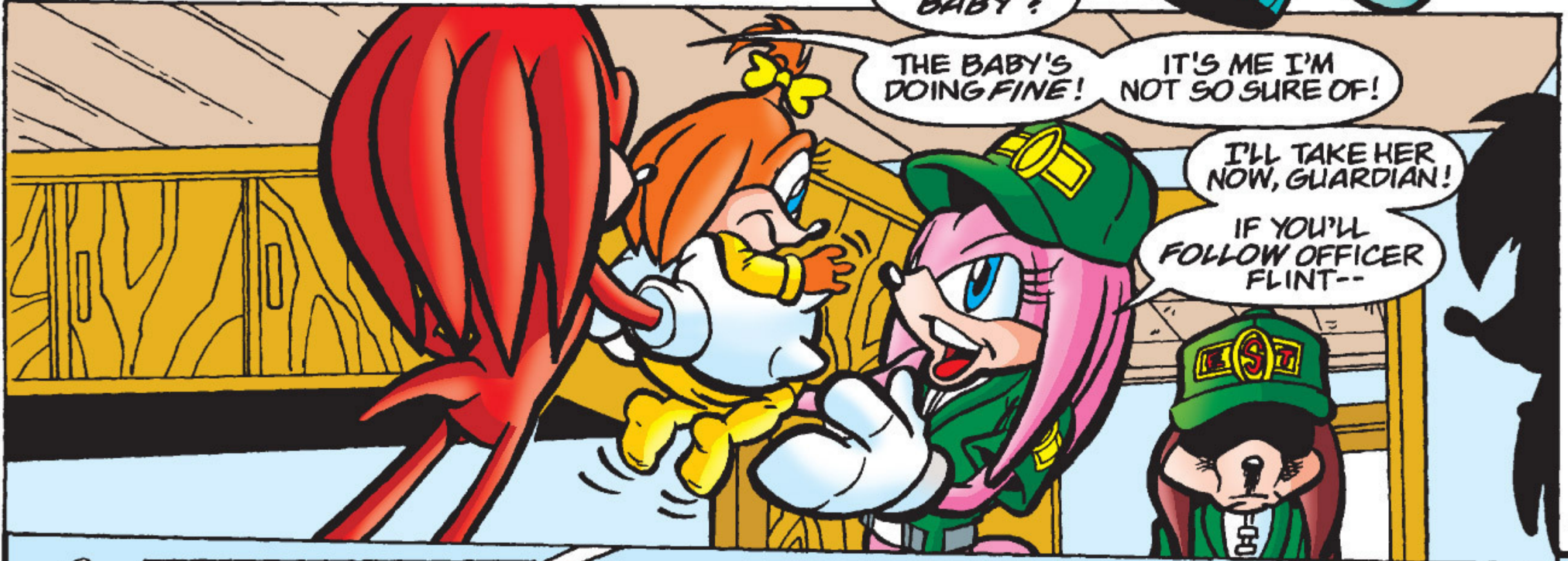
CAN YOU  
BLAME  
ME?

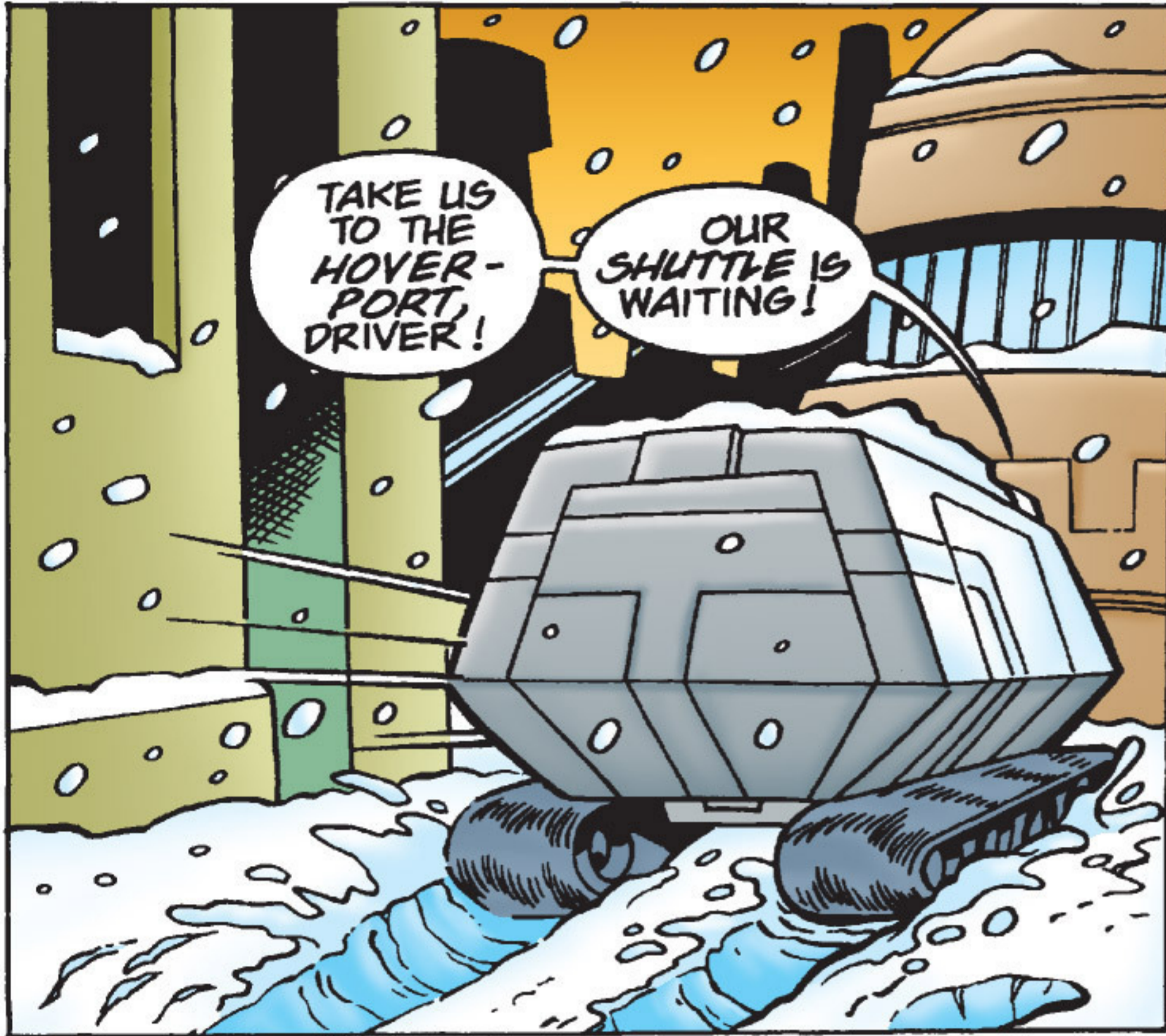


I WOULDN'T BE IN  
THIS MESS IF IT WEREN'T  
FOR YOU!

JUST  
ONCE--

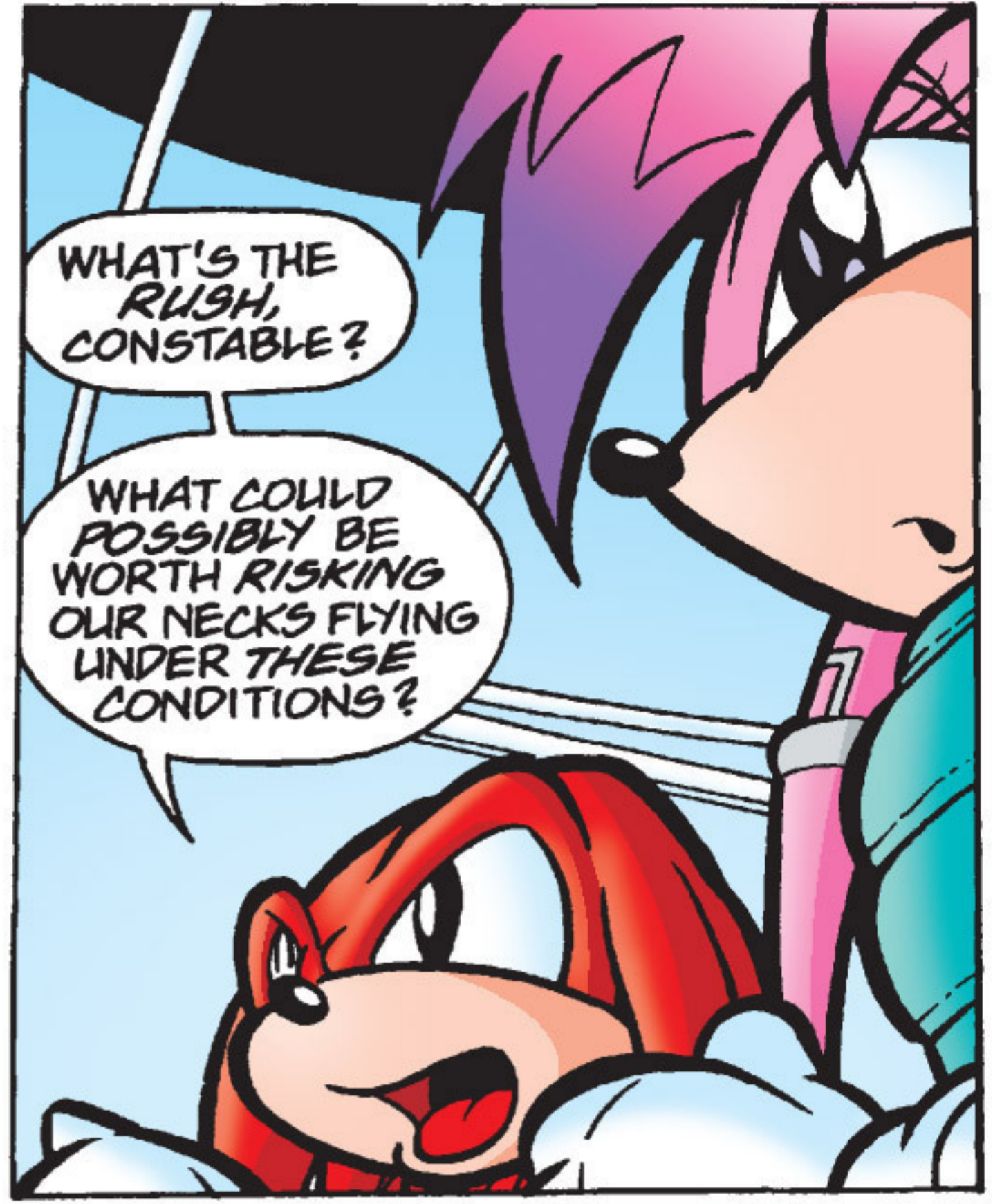






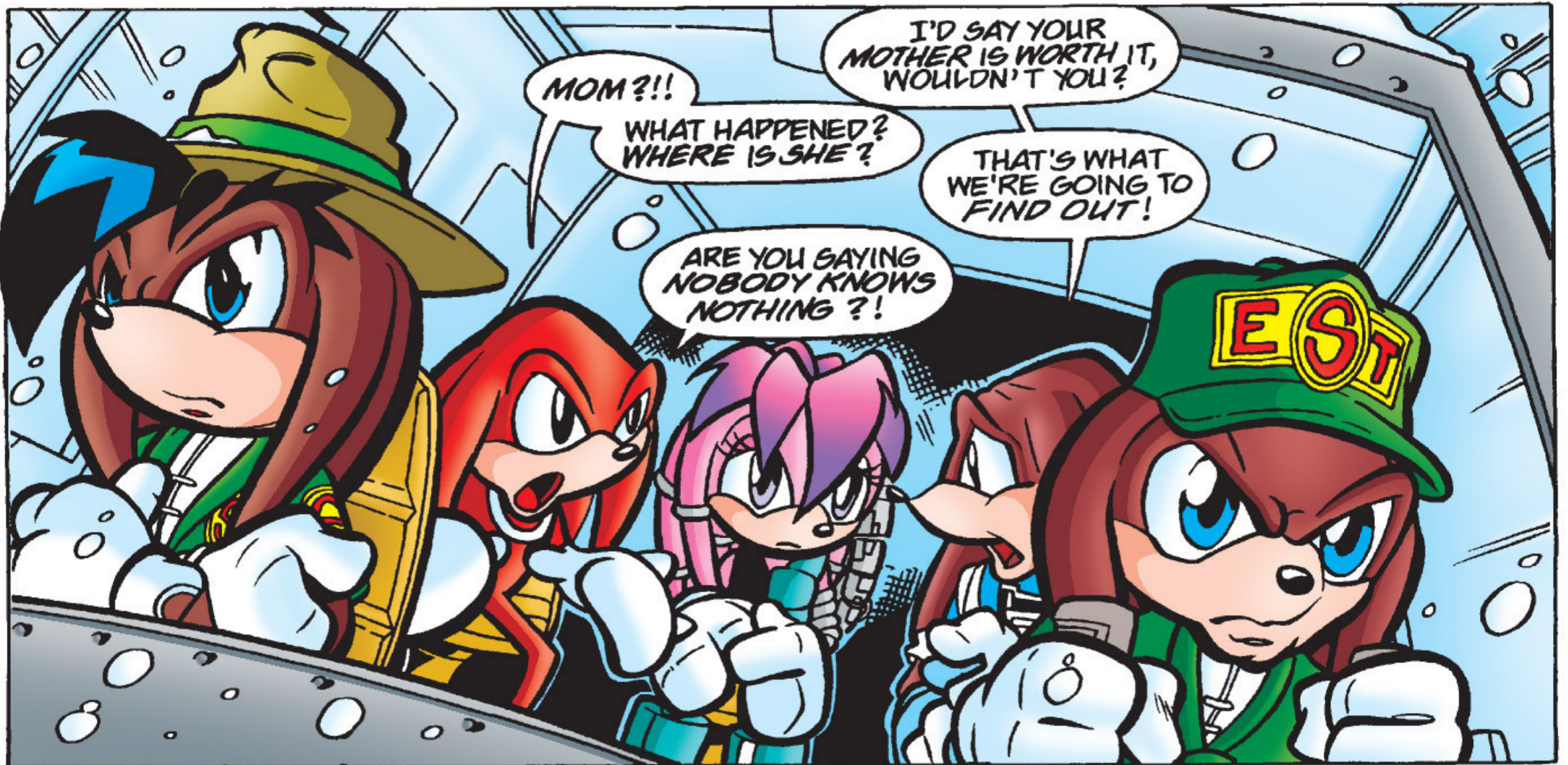
TAKE US TO THE HOVER-PORT, DRIVER!

OUR SHUTTLE IS WAITING!



WHAT'S THE RUSH, CONSTABLE?

WHAT COULD POSSIBLY BE WORTH RISKING OUR NECKS FLYING UNDER THESE CONDITIONS?



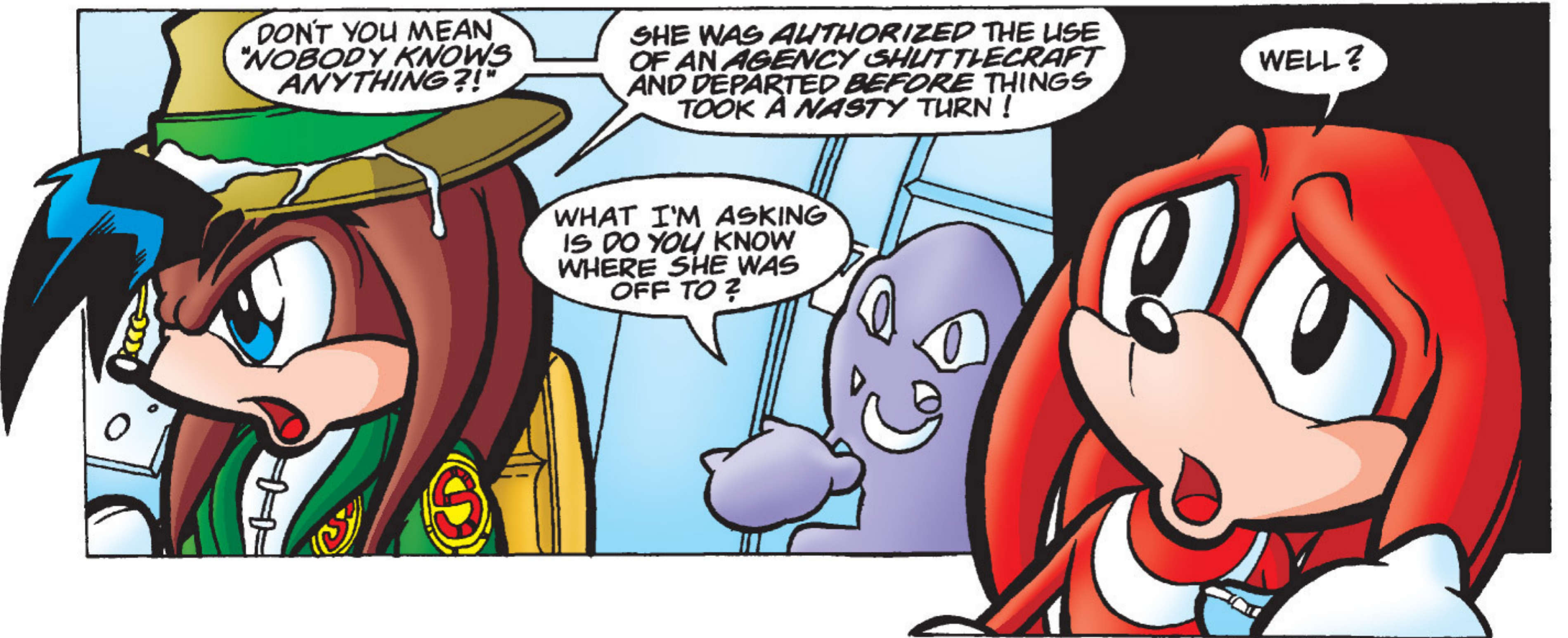
MOM?!!

WHAT HAPPENED? WHERE IS SHE?

I'D SAY YOUR MOTHER IS WORTH IT, WOULDN'T YOU?

THAT'S WHAT WE'RE GOING TO FIND OUT!

ARE YOU SAYING NOBODY KNOWS NOTHING?!

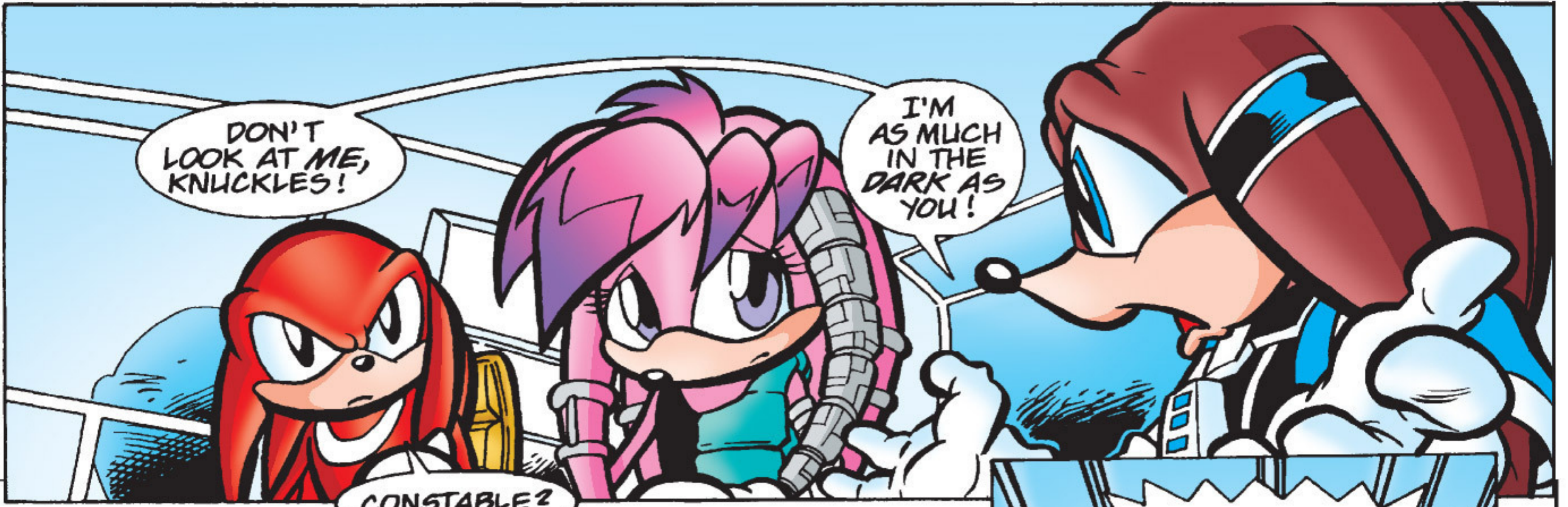


DON'T YOU MEAN "NOBODY KNOWS ANYTHING?!"

SHE WAS AUTHORIZED THE USE OF AN AGENCY SHUTTLECRAFT AND DEPARTED BEFORE THINGS TOOK A NASTY TURN!

WHAT I'M ASKING IS DO YOU KNOW WHERE SHE WAS OFF TO?

WELL?

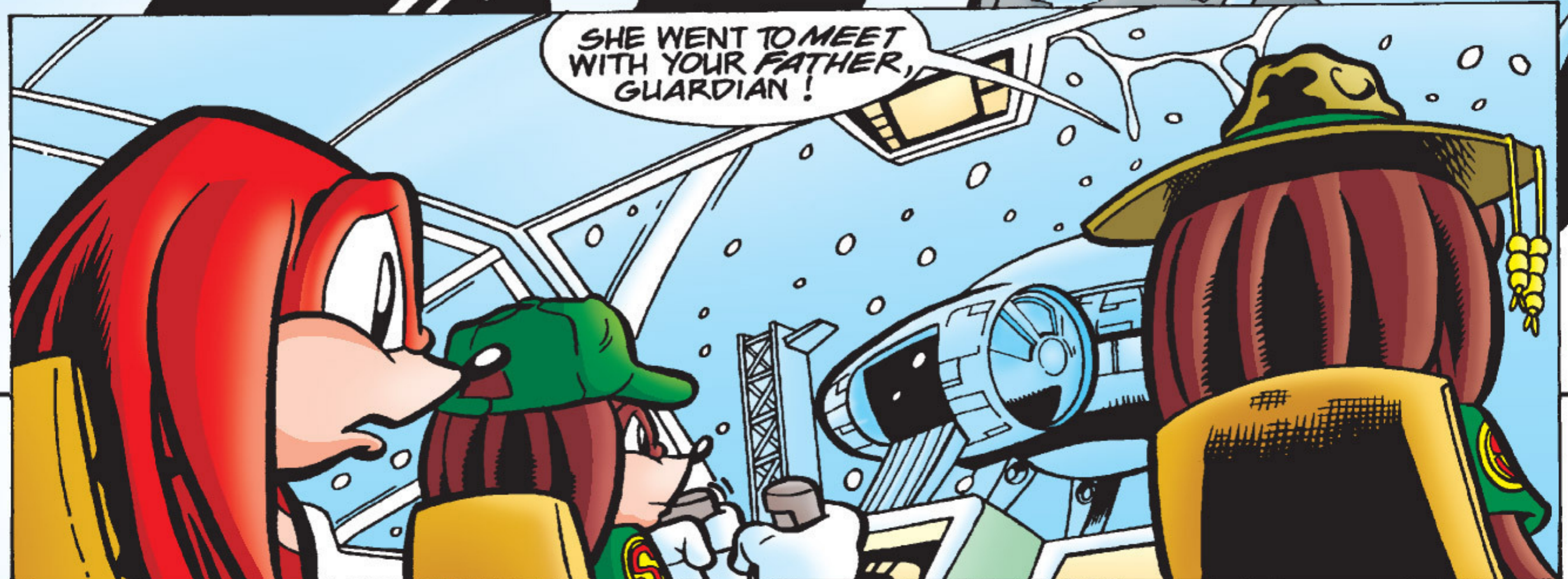
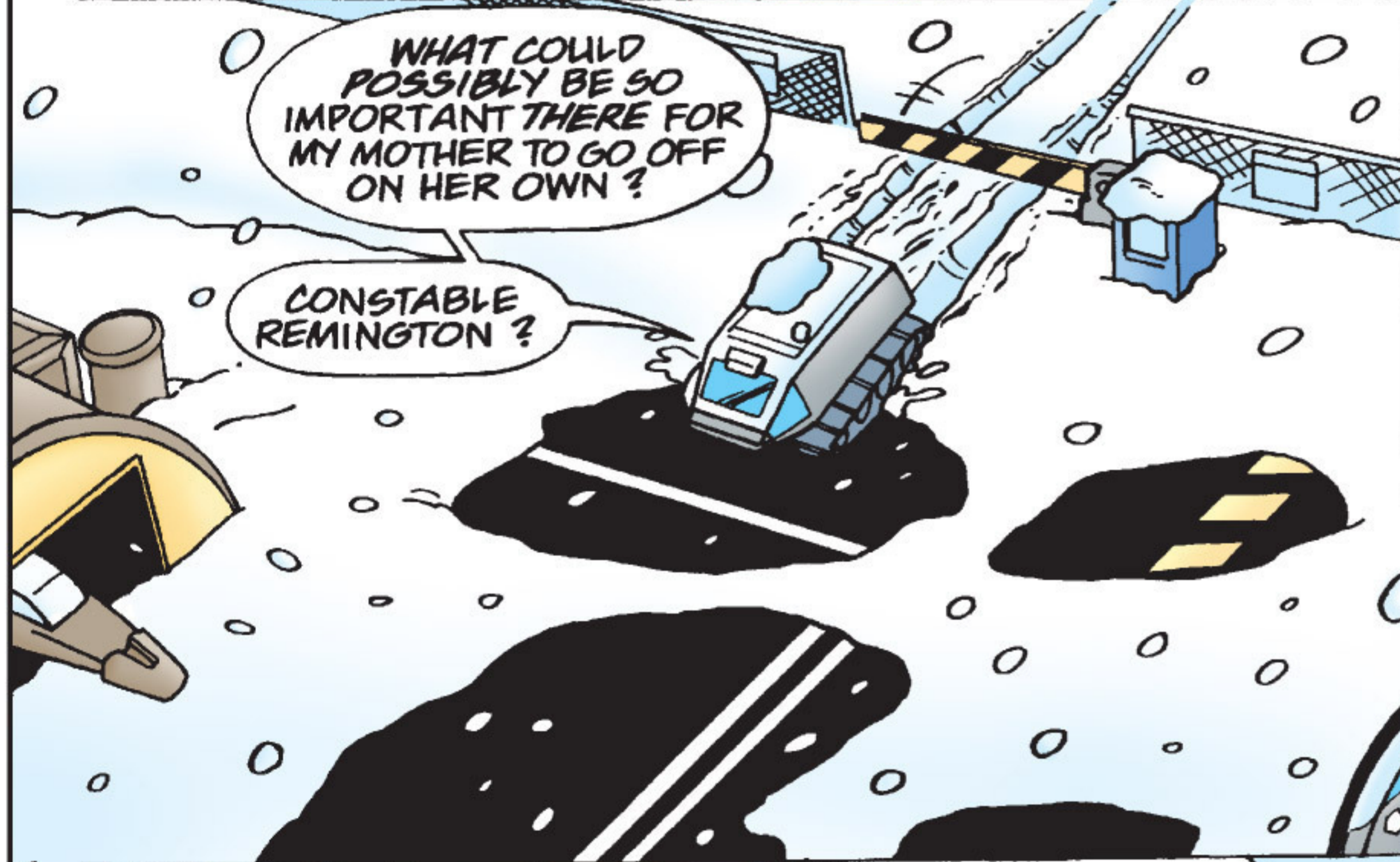


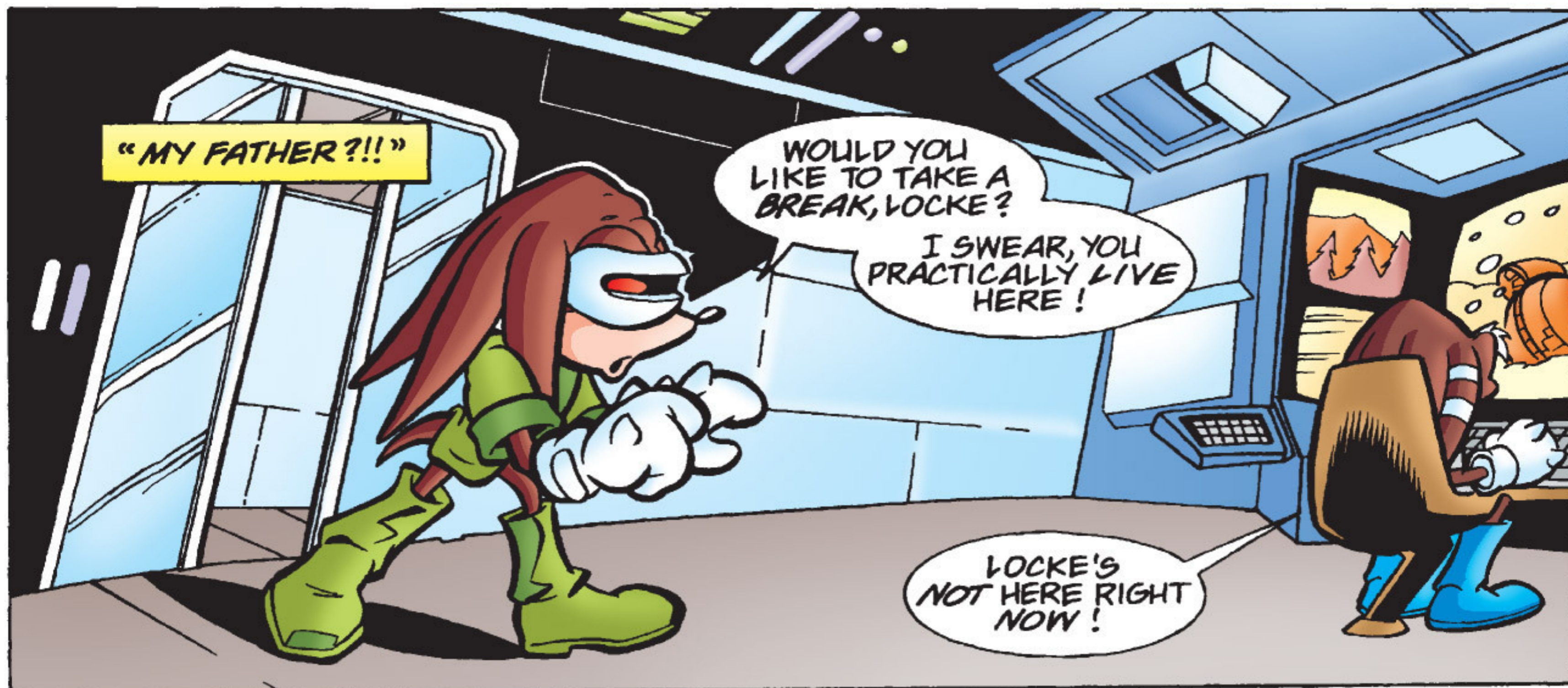
CONSTABLE?



THE FORBIDDEN ZONE?!!

**WHY?**



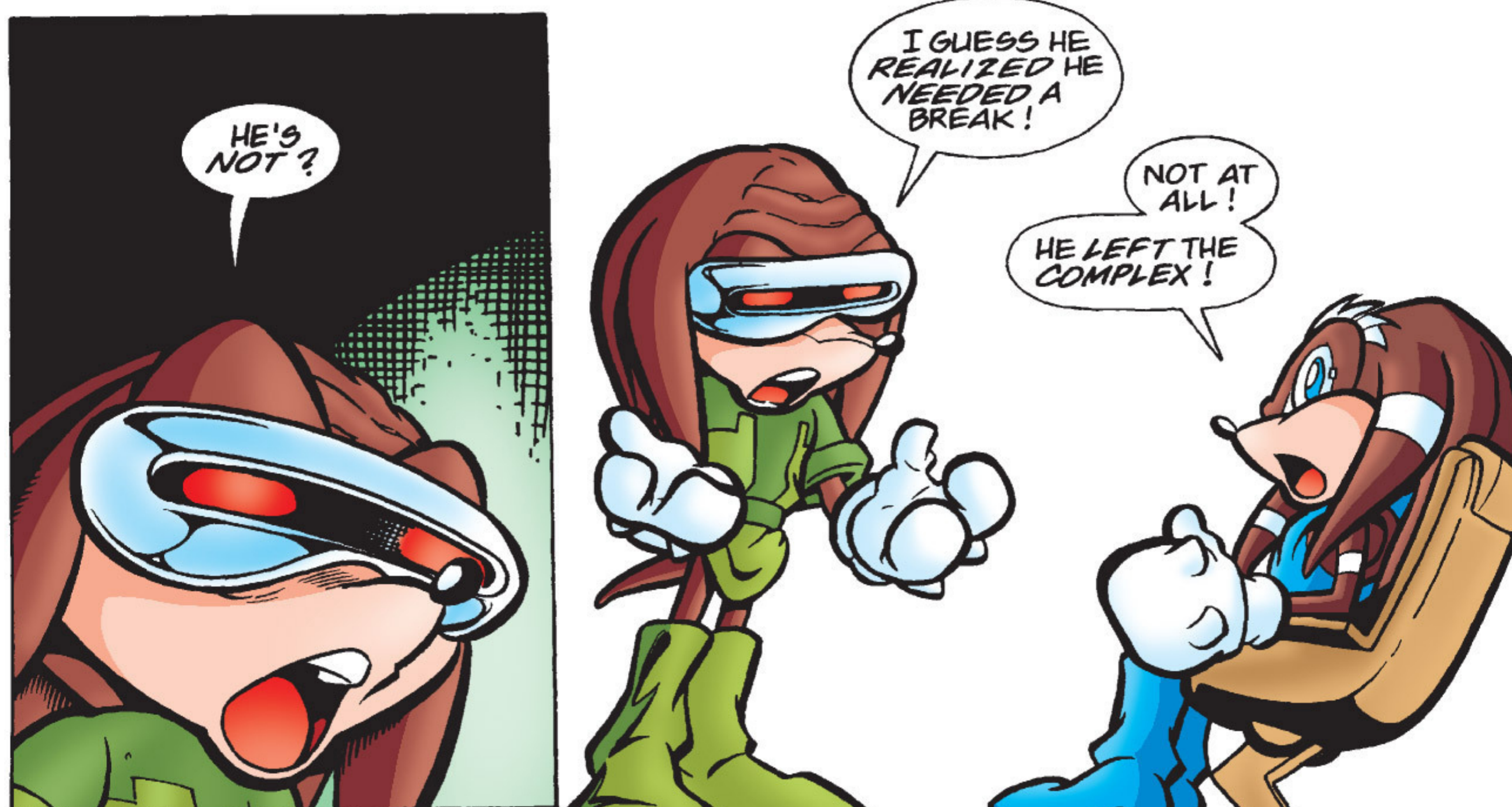


"MY FATHER?!!"

WOULD YOU LIKE TO TAKE A BREAK, LOCKE?

I SWEAR, YOU PRACTICALLY LIVE HERE!

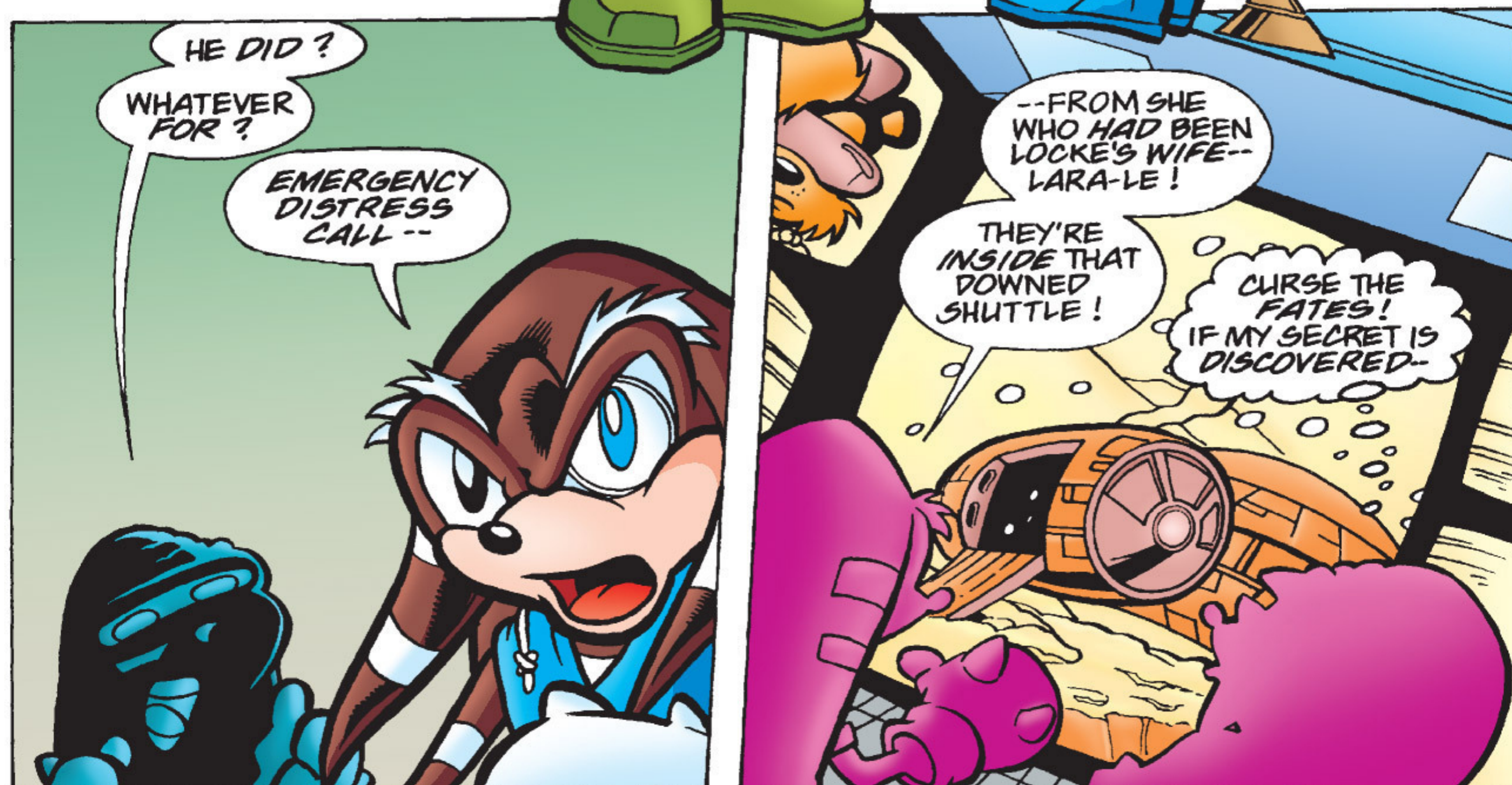
LOCKE'S NOT HERE RIGHT NOW!



HE'S NOT?

I GUESS HE REALIZED HE NEEDED A BREAK!

NOT AT ALL!  
HE LEFT THE COMPLEX!



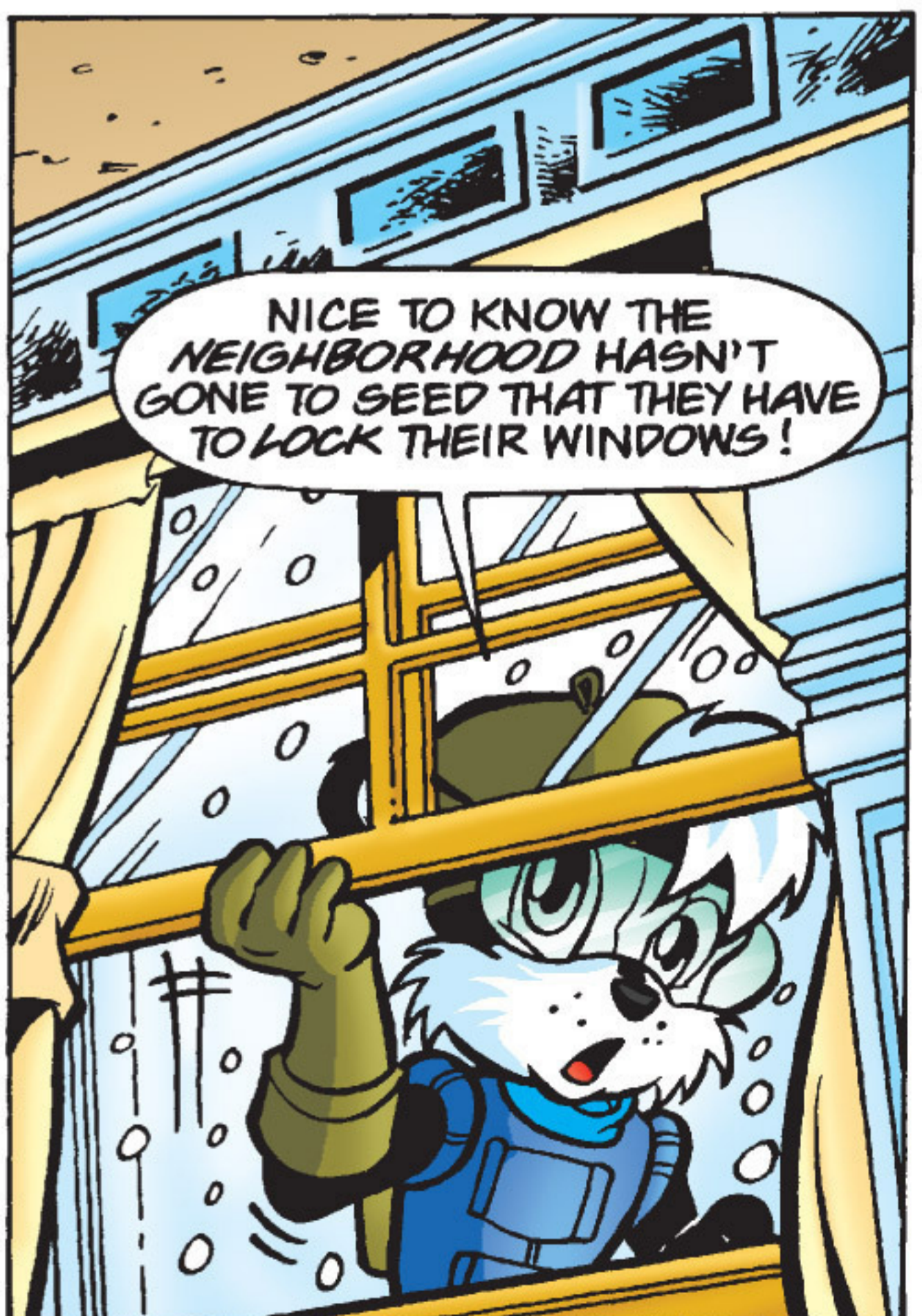
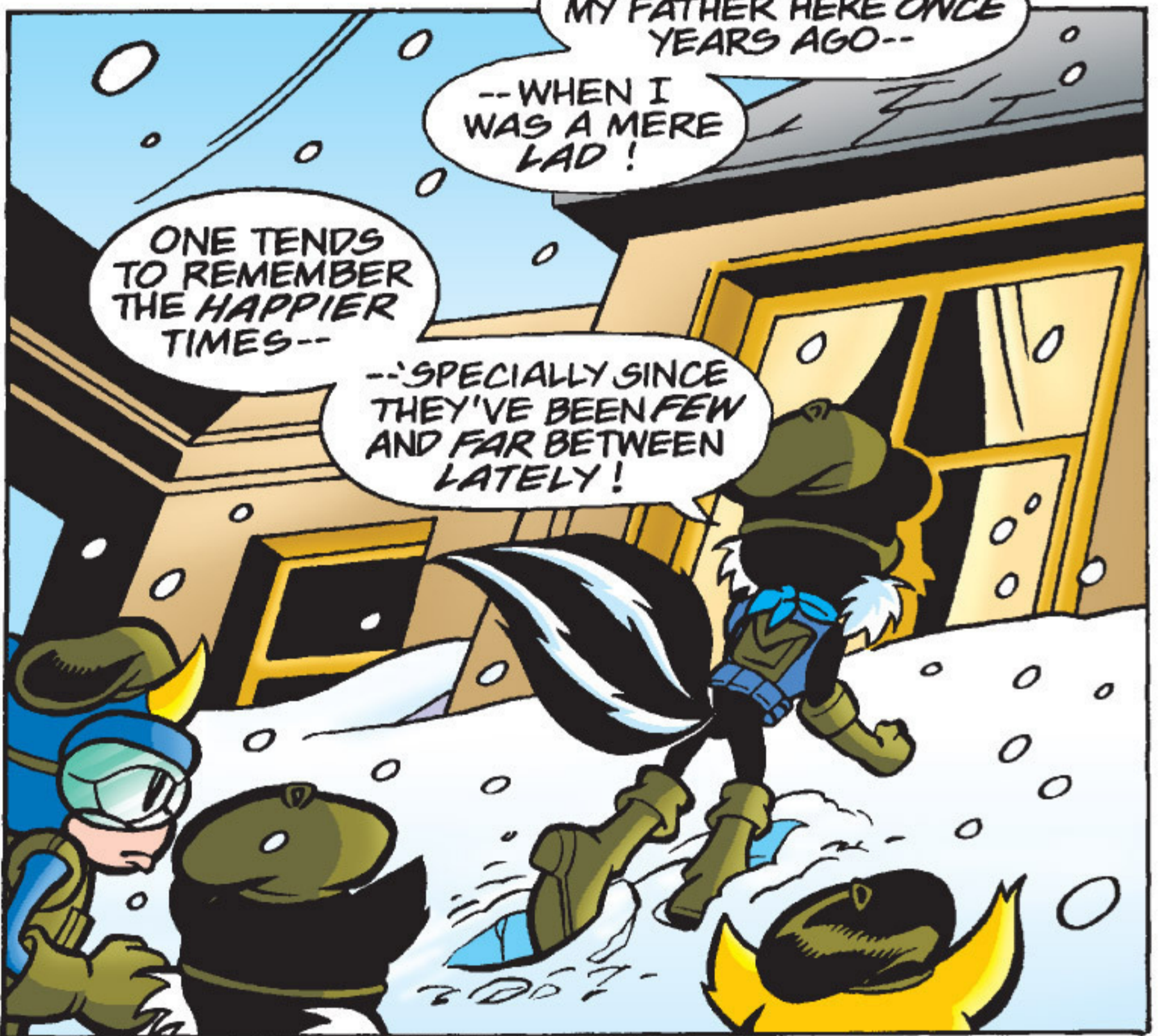
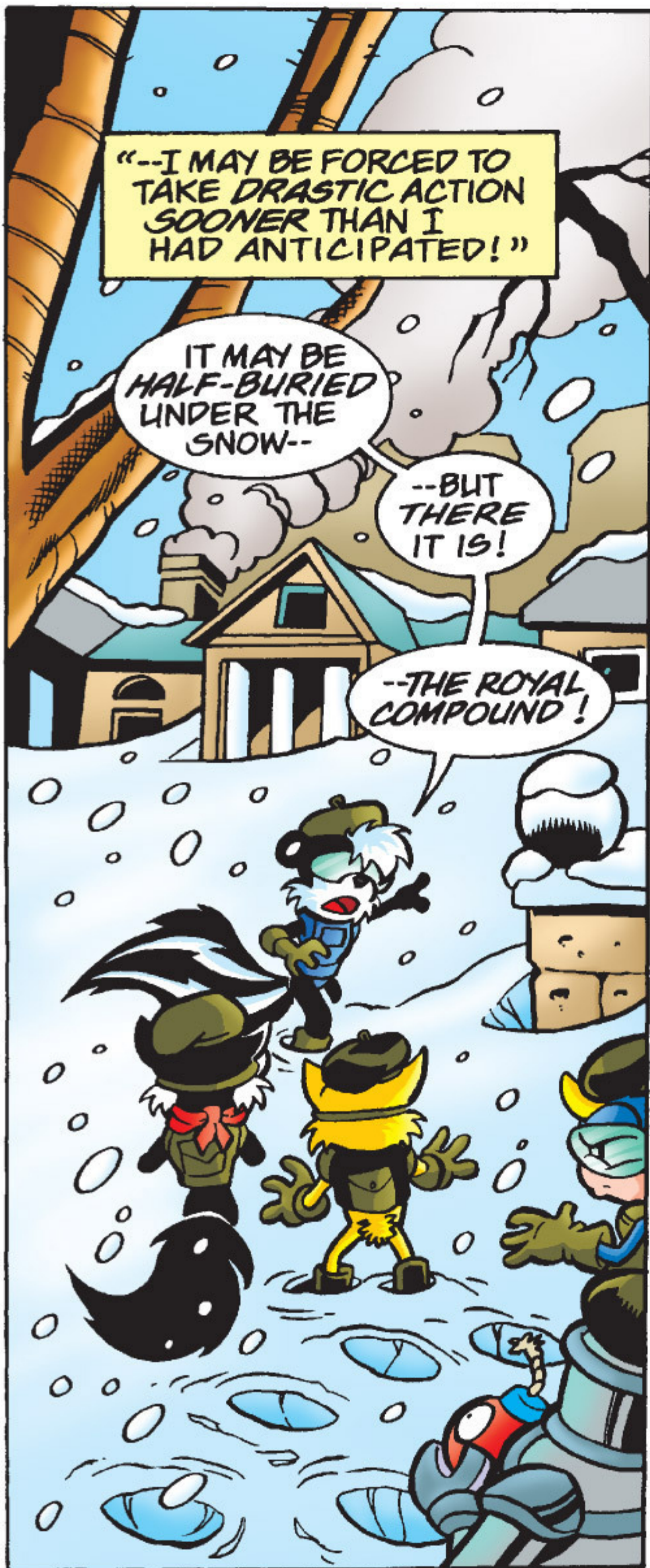
HE DID?  
WHATEVER FOR?

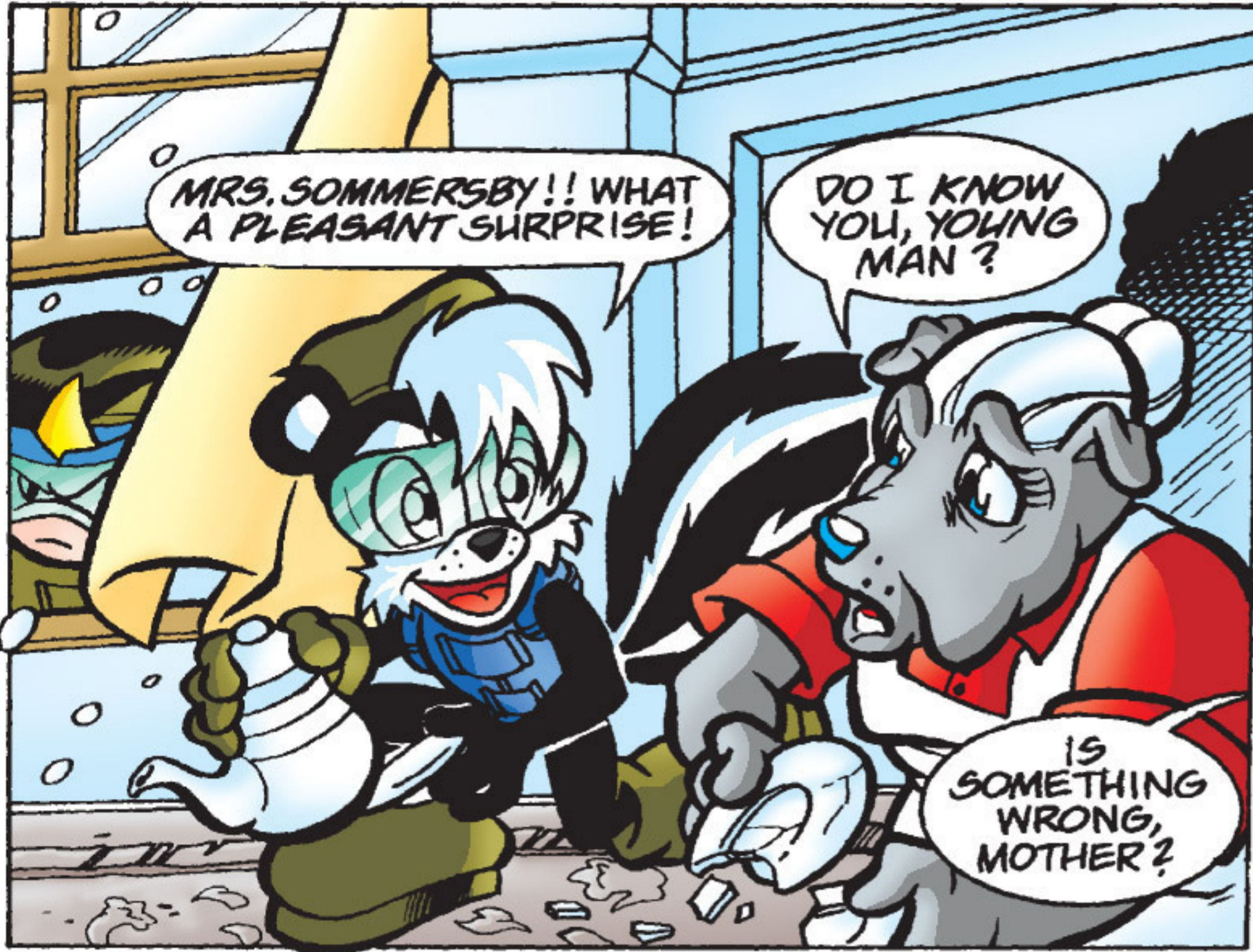
EMERGENCY DISTRESS CALL --

--FROM SHE WHO HAD BEEN LOCKE'S WIFE-- LARA-LE!

THEY'RE INSIDE THAT DOWNED SHUTTLE!

CURSE THE FATES!  
IF MY SECRET IS DISCOVERED--

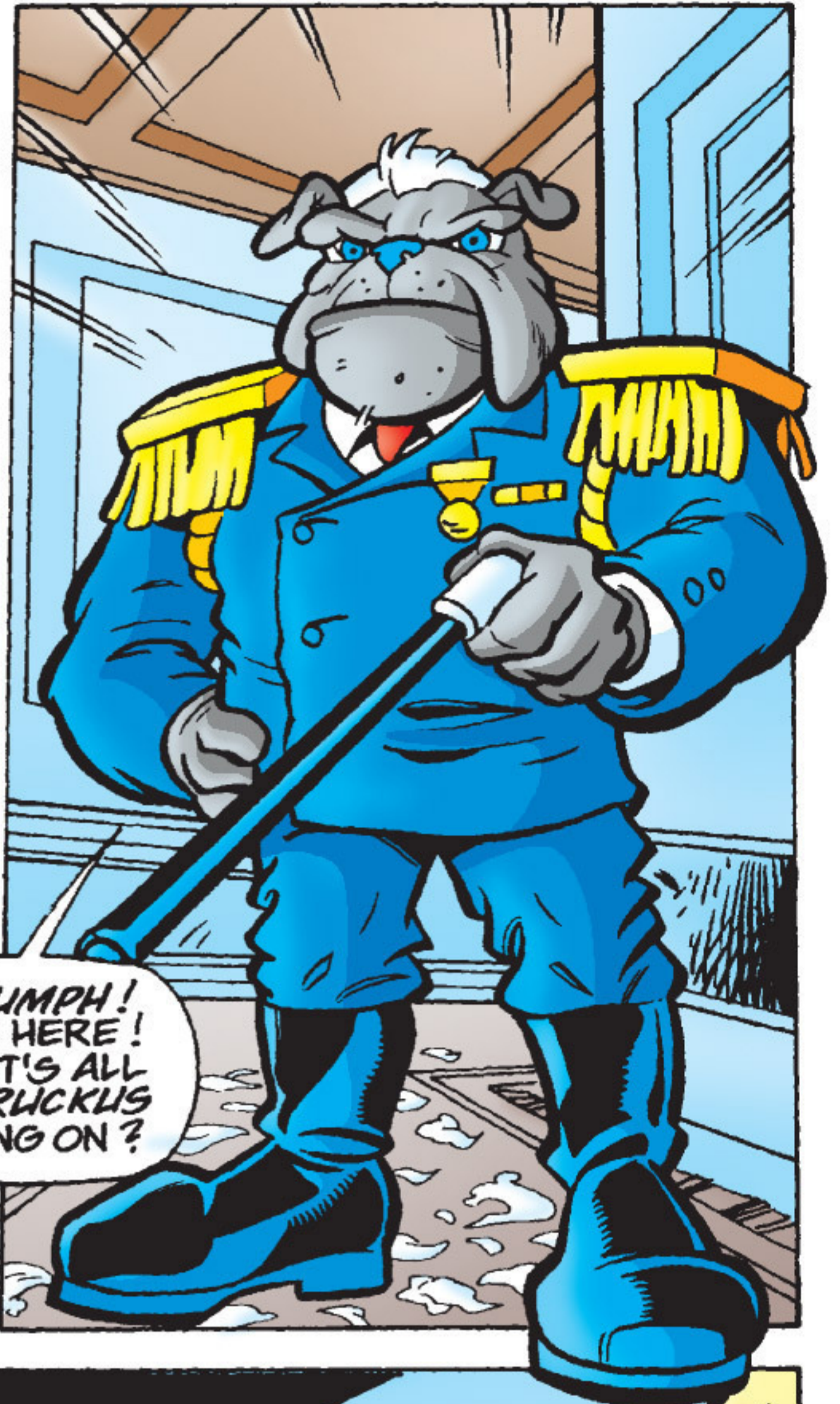




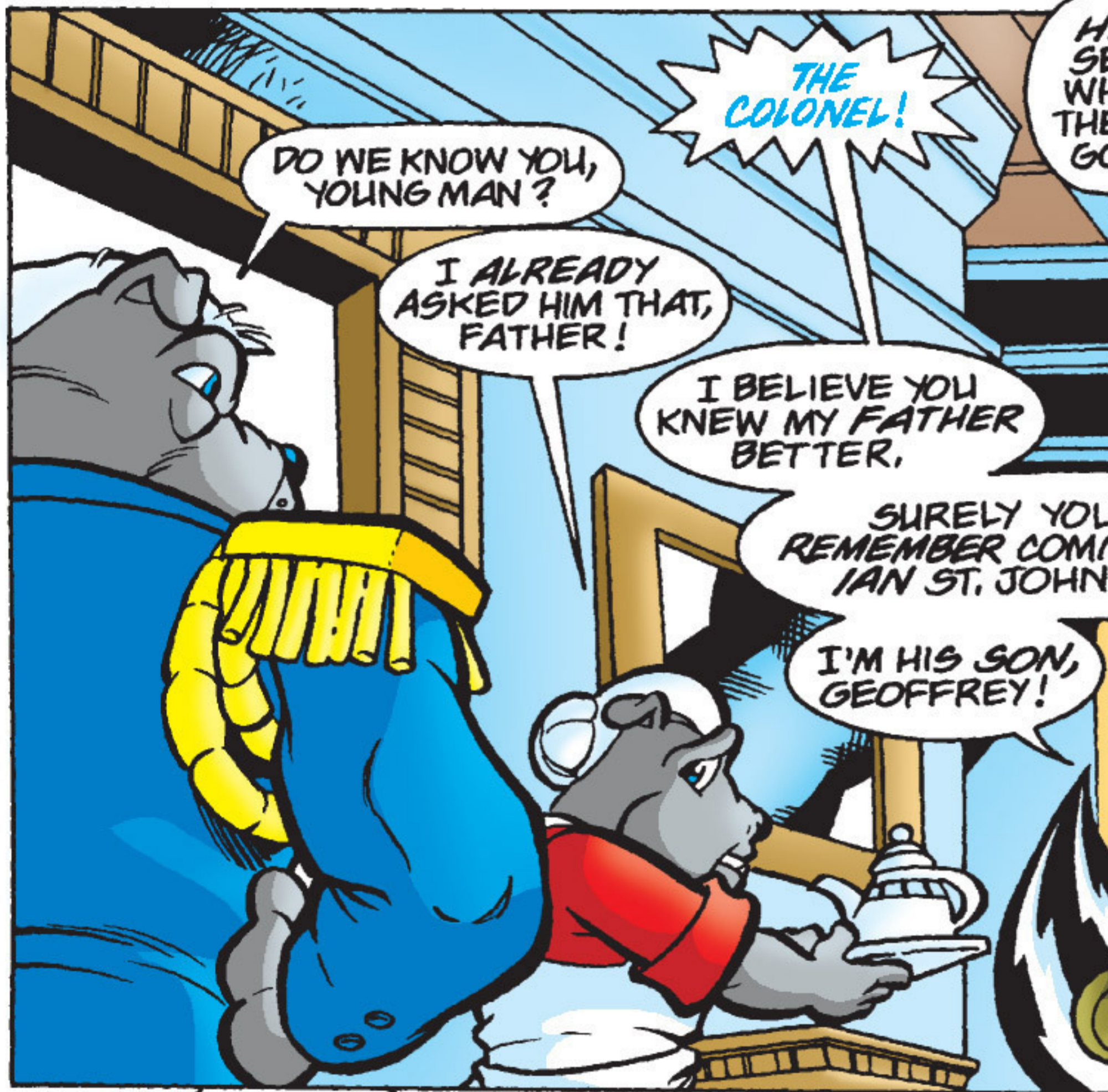
MRS. SOMMERSBY!! WHAT A PLEASANT SURPRISE!

DO I KNOW YOU, YOUNG MAN?

IS SOMETHING WRONG, MOTHER?



HRUMPH! SEE HERE! WHAT'S ALL THE RUCKUS GOING ON?



DO WE KNOW YOU, YOUNG MAN?

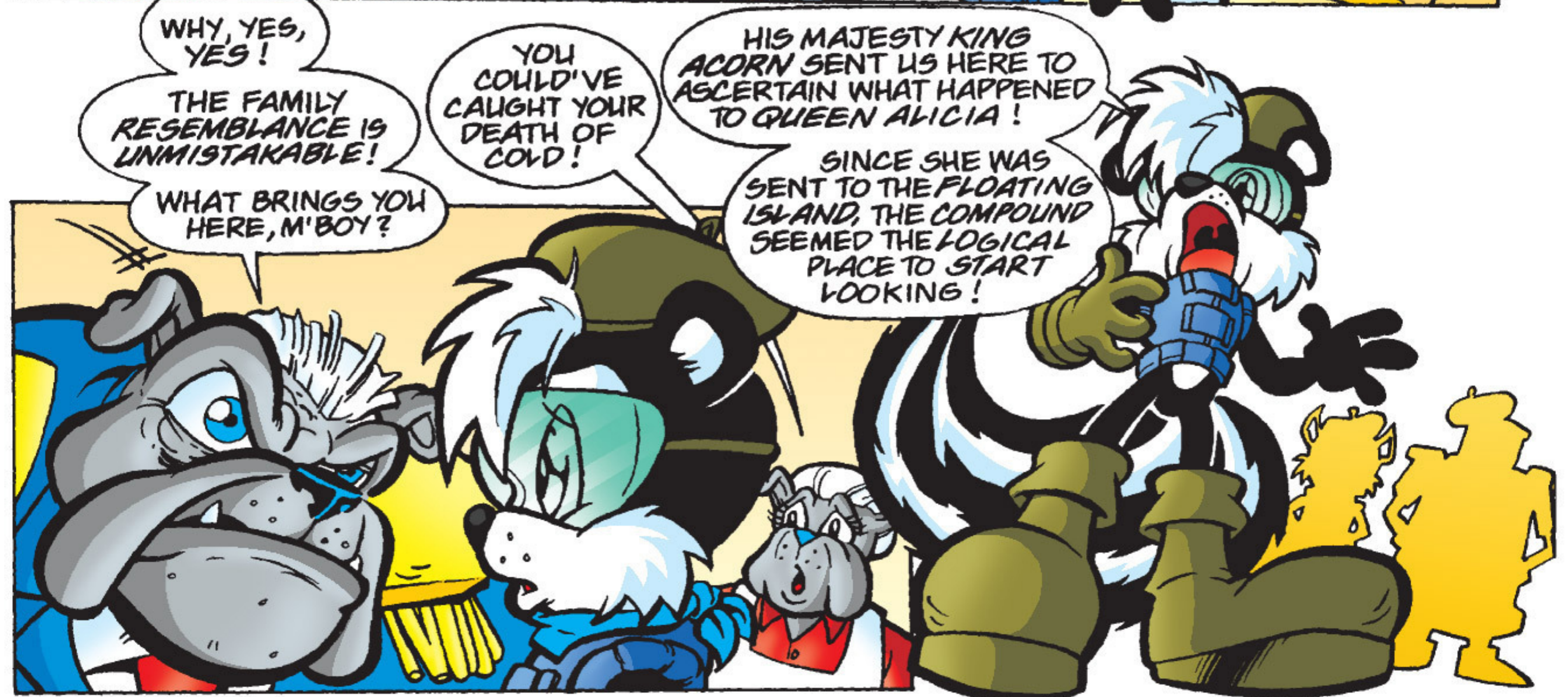
THE COLONEL!

I ALREADY ASKED HIM THAT, FATHER!

I BELIEVE YOU KNEW MY FATHER BETTER.

SURELY YOU REMEMBER COMMANDER IAN ST. JOHN?

I'M HIS SON, GEOFFREY!



WHY, YES, YES!

THE FAMILY RESEMBLANCE IS UNMISTAKABLE!

WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE, M'BOY?

YOU COULD'VE CAUGHT YOUR DEATH OF COLD!

HIS MAJESTY KING ACORN SENT US HERE TO ASCERTAIN WHAT HAPPENED TO QUEEN ALICIA!

SINCE SHE WAS SENT TO THE FLOATING ISLAND, THE COMPOUND SEEMED THE LOGICAL PLACE TO START LOOKING!



DID SOMEONE MENTION MY MOTHER?

WHO---

*To Be Continued...*

**PRO ART BY**  
FORMER REN & STIMPY ARTIST  
**MIKE KAZALAH!**  
COLOR IN & ENJOY.

